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MAGAZINE

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35p

THE TIMES

No. 65,416 SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 1995

Tory high-flyers to get dressed down on dressing up



In: the open-necked casual Major look

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

JUST as Labour MPs have all donned pin-stripe suits to try to acquire the Establishment look, aspiring Conservative candidates have been told to start wearing jeans and jumpers to turn the voters on.

High-flying, right-wing, young Tories will spend this weekend being taught how to discard their blue blazers and grey flannels. Instead they should ruffle their hair, buy a pair of loafers and try to imagine they are "happy, normal people". The weekend, organised by Lord Parkinson, is being held in a hotel near Heathrow and costs £60. The 33 male and seven female candidates are all either looking for seats or have just been selected. They will be drilled in how to avoid making gaffes, what to say on contentious issues such as drugs, prostitution and single mothers and how to deal with the pressures on family life, the risks of adultery and New Labour.

The high-flyers' first hurdle will be to arrive in something they consider "casual but chic", which will be marked by Mary Spillane, founder of Colour Me Beautiful, which teaches people how to transform their appearance. She will then give a four-hour lesson on "Get real — how to turn the voters on". Men will be taught how to apply foundation and powder to hide bags under their eyes when they are feeling jaded on the campaign trail and how to pluck their eyebrows to look less daunting. They will be told to shave off moustaches and beards, although sideburns are allowed, and they will be given dietary advice on how to keep their weight trim.

Women will be urged to throw away velvet headbands and ruffles, buy properly fitted bras, and try casual trouser suits and satin shirts. But they should not wear leather while they are canvassing.

Ms Spillane said yesterday: "The Tories need to recapture the imagination of the British public. At the moment most people would be frightened of having a beer with them in the pub. There is no point in going to a rural constituency in a brand new Barbour and wellies. You need to get some mud on them first.

"If you want to be MP for a trendy multiracial area like Notting Hill Gate, you have to learn how to slouch a bit and wear funkier clothes."

She has convinced the Tory heirarchy that looks are vital, and politics and fashion can mix. "Voters only listen to 7 per cent of what politicians say, the rest is down to looks," Ms Spillane said.

The weekend is the brainchild of the Conservative Way Forward Group, which wants to see as many of their true-blue Thatcherite proteges as possible selected for winnable seats. A series of right-wing role-model MPs have been asked to mingle with the high-flyers. The guest speaker at the dinner will be Eric Forth, the Education Minister.

One candidate said: "It is very difficult to get the balance right between looking like a stuffed shirt and a train spotter or nightclubber. Most aspiring politicians know how to talk about the economy and education but have appalling dress sense. This advice will be invaluable."



Out: the collar and tie formality of Portillo

'Rose knew nothing at all'

Voice of West confesses from beyond grave

BY BILL FROST AND RICHARD DUCE

FREDERICK WEST'S voice echoed from beyond the grave around a hushed courtroom yesterday as his taped confessions to murder were played in the defence of his widow, Rosemary.

In a dispassionate voice, he admitted murdering and dismembering his daughter Heather and other young women, most of whose names he could not remember.

His claims, that he alone was responsible for the killings, were the first time the recorded confessions of a dead witness had been produced in a murder trial.

West's taped interviews with detectives ran to more than 145 recordings totalling 110 hours; only four were played to Winchester Crown Court, taking the entire day.

Mrs West sobbed in the dock as her husband described in his Gloucestershire accent with surgical detail Heather's murder in 1987: "She had a smile and a sort of smirk on her face ... I can just remember lunging for her throat and the next minute she had gone blue."

He said he had then used a 12-inch knife with a serrated blade to dismember her. "I cut her legs off ... then I cut her head off, then I put her in the dustbin. Put the lid on and rolled it down the bottom of the garden behind the wendy house, covered it up and left it there."

Heather West's body was later to be buried beneath the patio at 25 Cromwell Street and her remains were the first to be unearthed by police.

West, who also described killing his first wife and her daughter, told police: "The thing I'd like to stress ... Rose knew nothing at all." He said that he had had affairs with his other victims and they had all been killed because they threatened to tell his wife. "Everyone of them did exactly the same thing — 'I love you, I'm pregnant, I'm going to tell Rose and I want you to come and live with me'. That was the problem."

Still in a detached, matter-of-fact tone, West was heard describing how he hatched a plot to prevent his first wife, Rena Costello, taking her seven-year-old daughter away from him.

"I took Rena in the pub and got her absolutely paraletic and then took her out to the country and I strangled her, cut her up and buried her," he said.

Charmaine, who had earlier been given a bottle of lager to drink, was asleep in the back of the car while her mother was murdered. "There was Charmaine in the back ... I thought what am I going to do now? So anyway I strangled her while she was sleeping because there's no other way I could have touched her."

Westsaid he then took the child's body back to his home at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester, and buried her beneath the basement.

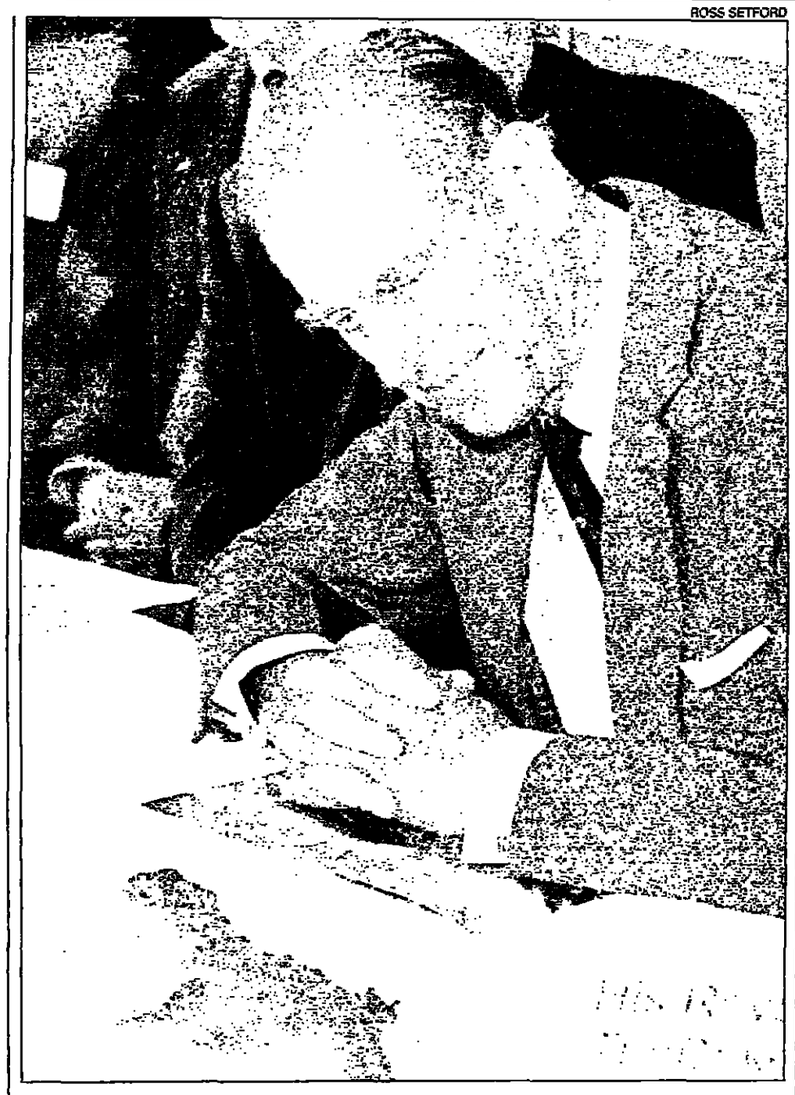
But the court was told later that after two months of interviews with police during which he said he had acted alone, Mr West was to change his story. On April 29 last year he said: "I have not told the whole truth. The main reason for this has been from the first day of this inquiry to protect other person or persons. There's nothing else I wish to say at this time."

Detective Constable Darren Law, one of the officers who interrogated him, said police were convinced that West — who hanged himself in Winson Green prison on New Year's Day — had told "lie after lie" during his interrogation.

The trial continues on Tuesday.

Taped evidence, pages 6, 7

ROSS SETFORD



THE Duke of Edinburgh stepped into the French nuclear tests row yesterday by backing a call for an investigation into the Mururoa atoll underground explosions, and saying the rest of the Royal Family agreed with him.

Speaking as the World Wide Fund for Nature's President — he was in Wellington to launch a campaign to protect a rare reptile, the tuatara (above) — he said of the testing: "There is a suspicion that it's doing damage and if you're concerned with the conservation of nature, you want to make sure whether it is or isn't." His remarks may embarrass John Major, who has backed France's right to test.

Apology to Maoris, page 14

Yeltsin gives up some power to Prime Minister

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's grip on power slipped further yesterday when he temporarily ceded responsibility for Russian security and foreign policy to Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister.

The two men met in the Central Clinical Hospital for the first time since Mr Yeltsin's heart attack last week. In the first television pictures Mr Yeltsin, wearing a tracksuit, looked puffy under the eyes and sounded slurred. "I feel all right," he said in a low, tired voice. "Now my recovery is going to plan and a doctors' conference considers me twice a day. We have to restore me to normal, but there are no more dangers."

Afterwards Mr Chernomyrdin, who is the constitutional heir to the president, said he had temporarily assumed responsibilty for the Defence, Interior and Foreign ministries, as well as the Federal Security Service, the successor to the KGB. Normally these ministers report directly to Mr Yeltsin.

The Prime Minister said Mr Yeltsin was "on the mend," but that it was important not to "overload the president with work". "He must be partially relieved of these duties so that he can recover," he added. "But of course we seek the president's advice on all key questions."

The so-called nuclear "suitcase" with special codes for the launch of nuclear weapons appears to have stayed with Mr Yeltsin. The handover of powers further undermines Mr Yeltsin's hopes of being re-elected president next summer. Correspondingly, it enhances Mr Chernomyrdin's case to be his official successor. The news also fits with unsubstantiated but persistent rumours in Moscow that Mr Yeltsin's heart attack last week was much more serious than the one he suffered in July.

Asked if Mr Yeltsin had personally asked him to take over control of the four "power ministers" Mr Chernomyrdin merely said cryptically: "I could see it in his eyes that Chernomyrdin should work harder"

Double-edged sword, page 12

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The true character of the funnyman Arthur Haynes remains elusive in *Heroes of Comedy* (Channel 4, 9.00pm). Review: Matthew Bond says goodbye to an exquisite flirtation between two people ..... Page

OPINION

Judicial Moonshine
The withdrawal of the Rev Sun Myung Moon's application to come to the United Kingdom is a welcome end to a controversy which has caused embarrassment to judiciary and executive alike ..... Page

Muddles and marks
The effective ban on open discussion of monetary union which Helmut Kohl has imposed on the German political and financial establishment has been subverted ..... Page

The Prince's choice
All the Bard's good bits now have royal seal ..... Page

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN
Did you know that in the Japanese Parliament there is a parliamentary Clean Government Party? ..... Page

ROBERT RHODES JAMES
Every other empire in world history has disintegrated in blood, humiliation, and with endless bitterness. The last chapters of the British Empire were, with two exceptions, totally different ..... Page

PHILIP HOWARD
An impressionist academic forecasts about lives and relationships. This branch of leisure culture takes paternal love of gin, shipshape and a tolerance of being taught a philosophy of world politics by myths of gods and fairy-tales such as part of human nature. Meanwhile, in the Kensington house of Mumsworthy, a fire is old enough to be confronted with trouble ..... Page

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Manchester wins Games

Manchester will stage the Commonwealth Games in the Queen's golden jubilee year of 2002. It will be the first time the Games have been held in England since 1934 ... Page 48

Model denial

Jackie St Clair, a former topless model, has written to *The Times* to deny reports of a romance with the late Duke of Northumberland ..... Page 19

Barclay twins buy The Scotsman

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

The Scotsman, one of Scotland's oldest and most prestigious newspapers, has been sold to David and Frederick Barclay, the twins who own *The European*, the London Ritz and the Howard Hotel in London. The price is about £90 million.

Speculation intensified last night that the brothers will transform the impressive multi-storey Scotsman building on Edinburgh's North Bridge into the "Edinburgh Ritz" and transfer the newspaper to a purpose-built plant on the outskirts of the city.

The Barclay brothers, who last month sold their stake in the casino group London Clubs International for £68 million, are buying *The Scotsman* and its sister publication *Scotland on Sunday* and the *Edinburgh Evening News*.

The remaining Scottish titles formerly owned by Thomson Regional Newspapers — the *Press & Journal* and the *Evening Express* in Aberdeen — are to be sold to Northcliffe Newspapers, the regional arm of Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail* for £82 million. This deal is subject to a review by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Associated Newspapers is also believed to be in talks with Caledonian Publishing, owners of *The Scotsman's* main rival, *The Herald*. If this deal goes through the long-running war between the Edinburgh-based *Scotsman* and the Glasgow-based *Herald* is likely to intensify.

For the intensely private Barclay brothers, *The Scotsman* adds another strong brand name to their portfolio of businesses, said to be worth £500 million. It also focuses unwelcome publicity on them.

Magnus Linklater, page 2

INSIDE



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The sermon of the year
Page 10

Safety fear as sales of fireworks boom

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

DEMAND for fireworks was expected to rocket today after forecasters predicted a clear and dry bonfire night. But there was a warning from safety campaigners who yesterday lobbied Downing Street for tougher controls.

While emergency services were fearing an increase in the annual toll of injuries, shops reported buoyant sales helped by the prospect of a wind-free, but frosty, weekend.

At Hamleys toy store in London, where some thought nothing of spending more than £2,000 on fireworks, the most popular buys included the Palm Tree Rocket at £27, the Triplex Bomber Rocket (£20) and the Silver Streak Ground Mine (£8), while at the "softer" end of the market the Flower Basket (£20) and Singing Birds (£10) sold well. The store also sold safety goggles, showed a safety video and handed out leaflets.

After two decades of decline, a 25-year high in accidents was recorded last year when two people died and 1,500 were hurt. The fireworks industry had been deregulated in November 1993 as part of a European free trade initiative. It removed the requirement for import licences, which had previously enabled officials to monitor supplies, and has been blamed for the arrival of dangerous fireworks from China — some of them via Holland.

The National Campaign for Fireworks Reform called for new licensing regulations in a letter delivered to Downing Street yesterday. Noel Tobin, campaign director, said: "We are alarmed that after last year, where there was a 50 per cent increase in injuries over 1993, things could get still worse." He launched a five-point safety plan which in

Continued on page 3, col 1

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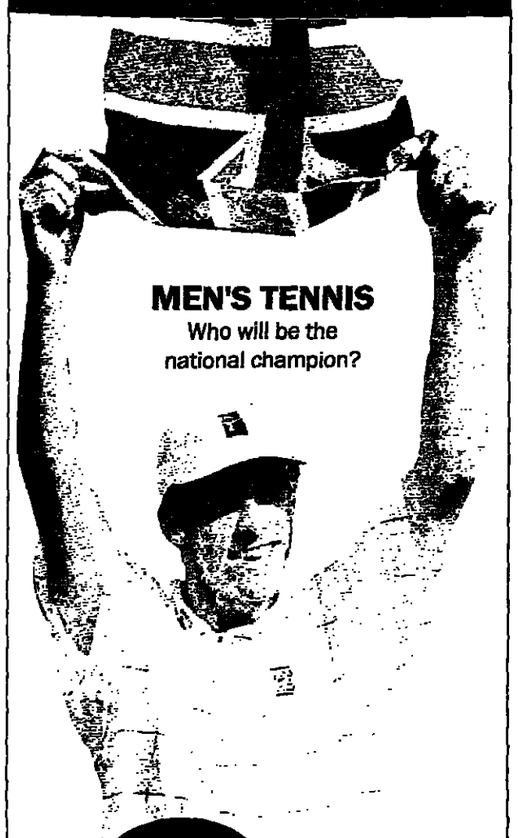
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THE TIMES ON MONDAY



MEN'S TENNIS
Who will be the national champion?

...AND REAL TENNIS

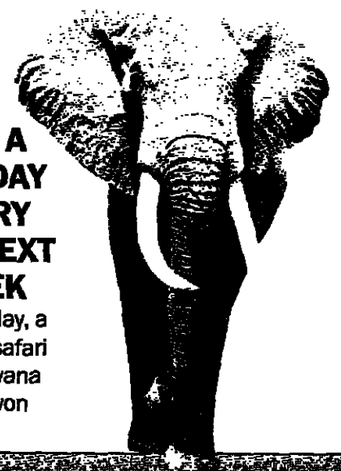


Rachel Campbell-Johnston on the sport of princes

PLUS:
The return of Jonathan Davies, rugby union's prodigal son

13 pages of Times Sport on Monday

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Angry Tories demand £126,000 a year

By Arthur Leathley and James Landale

TORY MPs called for a salary of £126,000 yesterday as they voiced anger at the pay of the ombudsman appointed to police Commons ethics. Patrick Nicholls, a former minister, and Nicholas Winterton protested that Sir Gordon Downey, the newly-appointed Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, is to be paid £72,000 for a four-day week.

The Tory backbenchers have tabled amendments to next week's debate on disclosure of MPs earnings, calling for Sir Gordon's pay to be reduced in line with Commons salaries or for MPs to have a corresponding pay rise. Claiming that MPs work a seven-day week, the Conservatives have called for MPs' £33,189 salary to be almost quadrupled, or for Sir Gordon's to be drastically reduced, either to the same level as that of MPs or to £18,964 to take into account his shorter working week.

Sir Gordon, 67, will monitor the Register of MPs' Interests, offer advice to MPs and provide induction courses in "conduct, propriety and ethics" to new members. He will also be in charge of initial investigations into complaints that MPs have breached a code of conduct.

Patrick Nicholls, MP for Teignbridge, said that the amendments were tabled to draw attention to the "ridiculous" pay being offered to Sir Gordon rather than to demand a massive salary increase for MPs.

Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said last night: "This is just another example of Conservative insensitivity and arrogance. It is clearly indefensible that an MP should be paid £126,000. The salary we have at present is quite reasonable for the work we do. It will confirm the public's view of the seediness of Conservative politicians."

Mr Nicholls is among the 125 Tory MPs alleged by Labour to have between them 270 posts as consultants and parliamentary advisers.

Earlier, senior Tories offered backbench colleagues a compromise over disclosure of outside earnings to help avert an embarrassing Commons defeat. The MPs tabled an amendment calling for Labour's proposal that all earnings should be declared to be raised after the next election rather than introduced by March. Their move came as Tony Newton, the leader of the Commons, conceded that even if the Government wins next week's vote, it would be seen to have been helping MPs to protect their own financial interests.

Mr Newton, who chaired the Commons select committee that recommended against public disclosure of earnings related to Parliament, was asked whether next week's vote represented a "no-win situation" for the Tories. He replied: "You may be right. That's just the way of the world." The Prime Minister's stance against disclosure is threatened by a revolt by at least ten Conservative MPs, enough to overturn the Government's technical majority of eight if there is a full turn-out of MPs. Although officially MPs have been given a free vote, both leaderships have been whipping heavily to ensure victory.

Labour intensified its campaign yesterday in the run-up to Monday's vote, with local election candidates and officials writing to their constituency Tory MPs, urging them to vote against the Government, and if not, challenging them to explain why. The party is targetting Tories in marginal seats who feel most nervous about allegations of sleaze.

Barclay twins pledge to respect tradition

Proud Scots institution again sold to outsiders

By Magnus Linklater

FOR only the second time this century *The Scotsman* has changed hands. Once again a rich and unknown proprietor has stepped in to take over a title that is regarded as a Scottish institution rather than just another newspaper.

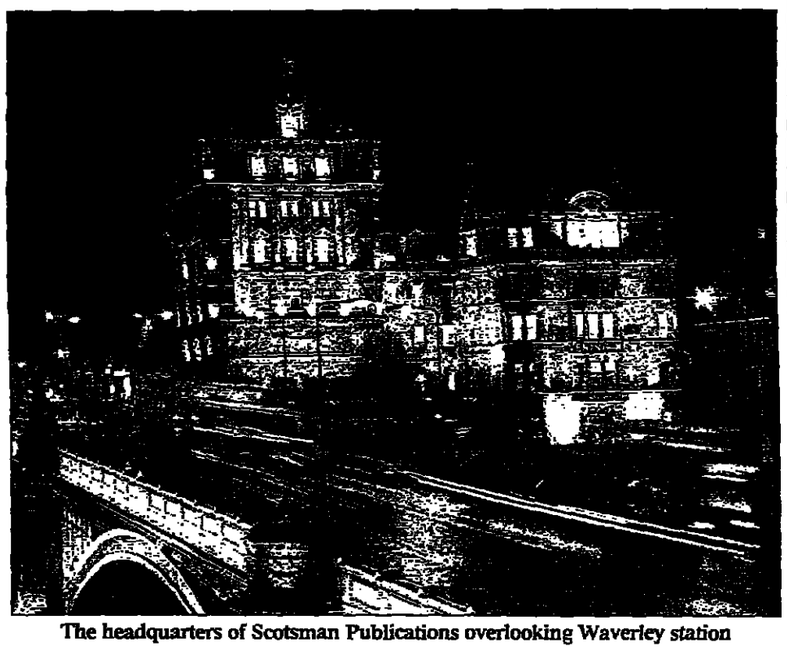
Last time around, in 1953, it was Roy Thomson, the Canadian millionaire, who saved the paper from bankruptcy. He picked it up for a bargain £393,750, which he achieved by selling off part of the block that came with the building.

The intervention of this brash foreigner was regarded at the time with grave suspicion by the citizens of Edinburgh, but he turned *The Scotsman* into a profitable paper, saw it climb to a circulation of more than 80,000, and went on to launch Scottish Television with enormous success. "There must be something wrong in this country when a fellow like me can make so much money," he remarked candidly.

Things are rather different now. The Barclay brothers are buying a paper which finds itself in the centre of a price-cutting war, defending a circulation that has been hit by the London broadsheet papers, and fighting for advertising revenue against a background of soaring newsprint costs. But it remains profitable.

Scotsman Publications, which includes the *Evening News*, *Scotland on Sunday*, and some free-sheet papers, all based in Edinburgh, made £9 million on a £45 million turnover in its last financial year. It still has a circulation of 80,000 and, with a high proportion of ABC1 readers, has an enviable advertising profile. That may explain the price the Barclays had to pay, believed to be at least £100 million. Even in real terms that is more than Roy Thomson could ever have contemplated.

The Barclay brothers have promised to respect the traditions of the paper. They will have also to decide on the future of a building that is a throwback to a long-vanished newspaper era. Built around the turn of the century, it is a 14-floor Victorian gothic structure, its basement giving onto the railway platform where newspapers were once bundled onto a special train.



The headquarters of Scotsman Publications overlooking Waverley station

Inside, wood-panelled walls bear the names of previous editors embossed in gold, while portraits and statues of venerable proprietors long gone adorn a rabbit warren of offices and corridors. Above the editor's desk, in a room that looks out over Waverley station to the Scott Monument on Princes Street, one of the finest city views in Scotland, is a gold-engraved slogan: "The Conductors pledge themselves for impartiality, firmness and independence ... their first desire is to be honest, the second to be useful ... the great requisites for the task are only good sense, courage and industry."



Roy Thomson: paid £400,000 in 1953

The paper's appeal for two brothers whose purchases have included The Ritz hotel and *The European* newspaper, is probably more than just its profit figures. The Scotsman is one of that select band of newspapers whose name is recognised throughout the world. It punches above its weight as a national rather than a regional paper and offers a similar diet of United Kingdom and international news from a base that is strongly Scottish.

Its masthead proclaims itself as Scotland's National Newspaper — a description hotly disputed by the *The Herald* in Glasgow, which has a considerably higher circulation — and it has been an outspoken voice for Scottish interests ever since it was founded in 1817, proclaiming: "We have not chosen the name of Scotsman to preserve an invidious distinction, but with the view of rescuing it from the odium of servility."

The Barclay Brothers are buying the paper at a crucial time in its development. With Labour's promise of a Scottish Parliament a key issue in the run-up to the next election, *The Scotsman* is likely to play an important part in the national debate.

But it can no longer expect to occupy its Scottish territory unchallenged. It will need greater investment than its previous owners were prepared to give it, and a new management which can inject the kind of energy and innovation that will enable it to compete with rival newspapers that have shown every sign of giving it a run for its money.

Magnus Linklater was Editor of The Scotsman *1988-94*

Barclays buy papers, page 1

Ancram holds out over IRA arms

The Government rejected demands last night from Sinn Fein to call immediate all-party talks. Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland minister, told the party during talks at Stormont that the IRA would have to begin to decommission its arms before Sinn Fein could join full talks.

Mr Ancram said afterwards that Sinn Fein's proposals, drawn up with the Social Democratic and Labour Party, were unacceptable because they called for the Government to fix a date, rather than a target date, for all-party talks. They also wanted an international disarmament commission to examine all weapons, including the Army's. Martin McGuinness, who led the Sinn Fein delegation, said the Government was squandering the peace process.

Support for divorce law

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has won support from Roman Catholic bishops for his Divorce Law Reform Bill. The Right Rev Peter Smith, chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Marriage and Family Life, said the bill, which has been attacked by Tory MPs and some members of the Cabinet, had many positive aspects.

Boxer loses legal fight

A move by Lennox Lewis to stop Frank Bruno defending his World Boxing Council heavyweight crown against Mike Tyson instead of him was halted by Mr Justice Rattee at the High Court yesterday. He ruled that the WBC rules provided for the exclusive jurisdiction of disputes in Dallas, Texas. The fight is scheduled for March 16.

Missing clerk 'in France'

The police hunt for Gerry Taylor, 45, a town clerk who disappeared at the same time as £100,000 went missing from Whitworth Town Council near Rochdale, Lancashire, has switched to France. Mr Taylor, who claimed to have been in naval intelligence and had recently split from his wife, left clues suggesting he had gone to Moscow.

Labour identity mix-up

The Labour Party agreed in the High Court to lift the suspension from membership of Gias Choudhury, apologise and pay his costs. The party had suspended him after a television programme on the reselection of Gerald Kaufman as candidate for Manchester Gorton. Yesterday, Labour admitted confusing Mr Choudhury with someone else.

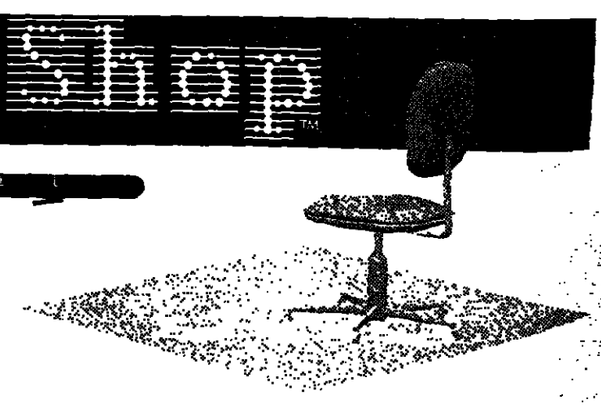
Journalists sentenced

Two journalists who posed as television producers to dupe clothes stores and computer manufacturers out of thousands of pounds worth of goods were sentenced by Southwark Crown Court, London. Quilliam Potter, 29, and Gillian Hunter, 30, both of Exeter, were put on 18 months' probation with community service of 100 and 60 hours.

Mackay backs tribute

Courts across the country could fall silent next Saturday as support grows for a two-minute silence 50 years on from the end of the Second World War. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has said that he had no objections to the Royal British Legion's call for the silence to be observed in courts, only a handful of which will be sitting.

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'He has grown up into a fine, cultured young Englishman. We will go into exile together'

Boy saved by millionaire fights deportation order

By Andrew Pierce

A FORMER Nepalese mountain boy, who is the heir to an 18th-century English castle and a £1.5 million fortune, is facing deportation from his stately home. Jay Khadka, 19, was rescued from a life of poverty in Nepal by Richard Morley, a millionaire businessman, to honour an extraordinary pact with the teenager's dying father.

Mr Morley, 41, squire of Clearwell Castle in the Forest of Dean, has said he will leave Britain if the Home Office does not lift the deportation order. Mr Morley, who has brought up Jay as his son since July 1990, said last night: "He has grown into a fine, cultured young Englishman. We call each other father and son. If he goes, I go, too."

Their meeting came about after Mr Morley punctured a lung in a climbing accident in Nepal in 1984. Jay's father Basu, a policeman, trekked for three days through the mountains to find a telephone to seek help for Mr Morley.

After making a full recovery, Mr Morley traced the father to his village, Kalopani. "He did not want money. But he feared for his son because he had a heart condition. He made me promise that if anything happened to him I would care for Jay. We shook hands on it." Mr Morley, a former naval officer who made his fortune in computers, was true to his word. In 1990 he returned to Nepal after the death of Basu and spent a month tracking down Jay. He was living in a mountain village and working in a stone mine. He did not speak a word of English.



Jay Khadka in Nepal shortly before he was brought to Britain, where he has lived since 1990

Jay was brought to England and lived first at Mr Morley's seafront flat in Margate, Kent. "He loved it. He had never seen the sea before," Mr Morley said.

Clearwell Castle was bought by Mr Morley, a widower, in 1994. He shares it with his girlfriend, Jay and five servants. The teenager was educated at home and had a daily diet of Dickens, Orwell and Homer. He also studied fine art and enjoys Mozart, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky.

Mr Morley, who has no children, has made Jay heir to his fortune, which includes a £220,000 flat in Bloomsbury, London, the Margate apartment, an art collection, and a 5,000-book library at the castle.

Jay faces expulsion because he entered Britain on a visitor's visa which was not extended. Mr Morley said: "When we found him Jay did not know how old he was. There was no birth certificate. Immigration authorities suggested we put 18 on his passport, which was the minimum age required for him to leave Nepal.

"It was obvious when we arrived home that he was much younger. The Home Office said we could not adopt him because we had to accept he was 18, the age on his passport. I have spent five years battling to overcome this bureaucracy."

Mr Morley was advised that the only legal mechanism by which Jay could stay was to secure "indefinite leave to remain". He said: "We lodged an appeal on compassionate grounds. We have got nowhere. Jay could be deported any day.

"To throw him out of this country, and into an alien culture, is inhumane. He cannot read or write his own language. Whatever happens to him, will happen to us."

Jay, who speaks with a refined English accent, said: "I have grown up in this society. I have a new father whom I love. If I had not come to England I would probably still be working down the mines. I may not have survived. I'm grateful for the chance I have been given."

A deportation notice was issued in 1994. A Home Office spokeswoman said: "There is a procedure for when foreign nationals come here which has to be followed."

The stress of the deportation battle has led to the closure of a hotel at the castle. Jay, who had combined his studies with a course in hotel management, was the head chef. Mr Morley, whose computer company employs 20 people, said: "There is no way I am going to put my son on a plane and say goodbye. We will go into exile together. For good." The castle that Jay stands to inherit is built on the site of an old Roman villa, which later became a 16th-century manor house where Sir Walter Raleigh reputedly courted Elizabeth Throckmorton. After the Civil War it was acquired by the Wyndham family who built the present neo-Gothic property in 1726.

The castle, built of sandstone, was bought in 1909 by Colonel Charles Vereker, Royal Artillery, retired. It flourished despite a fire in 1929. But when the colonel died in 1947 the castle was left to rot.

In the 1950s it was derelict. The roof leaked; floors had collapsed. The rot was only stopped when Frank Yeates, who was born in a serf's cottage on the estate in 1913, bought it for £2,000 in 1953.

He was an unlikely lord of the manor, living with his wife, two children and mother in a caravan in the overgrown grounds. Within three months the couple had taught themselves plumbing, brick-laying, carpentry and rewiring from do-it-yourself manuals. They then set about renovation using sometimes odd methods. Ceiling coves were restored with gelatine. During the restoration the cornices were held up with Meccano and pyjama cord.

In 1982 Mr Yeates's widow, Alice, part-exchanged the castle for another imposing residence. Widecombe Manor. The estate was then turned into a hotel and conference centre.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Richard Morley has bequeathed his fortune to the teenager whose father helped him after a mountaineering accident

Killer of British tourist gets life

A TEENAGER convicted of the roadside killing of a British tourist in Florida two years ago was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday. John "Billy Joe" Crumitie, 18, was found guilty in September of the first-degree murder of Gary Colley, 34, from Bradford.

Mr Colley's girlfriend, Margaret Jagger, 37, was wounded in the bungled robbery east of Tallahassee, in northern Florida. Two earlier trials ended with deadlocked juries.

Ms Jagger, dressed in black, was close to tears as she read a prepared statement to the court. "To many, many people a wonderful loyal friend has been taken out of their lives instantly for no reason." Ms Jagger said she would "live with the mental torture and memories of that horrific night at the rest area" where Mr Colley was shot.

Crumitie, who must serve 25 years before becoming eligible for parole, was also sentenced to a total of 64 years to run concurrently with the life sentence on four lesser charges related to the shooting.

Deron Spear, 19, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery and accessory after the fact and provided crucial testimony against Crumitie, was sentenced to eight years. Aundra Akins, 16, who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, will be sentenced on November 14. He is believed to have fired the shot that killed Mr Colley.

Food additive holds out hope for dyslexics

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A FOOD supplement launched yesterday may help half a million people who are struggling at school or university as a result of dyslexia. The supplement, Efalex, is based on essential fatty acids found in fish and plants, the absence of which appears to be linked to dyslexia.

Dr Jackie Stordy, senior lecturer in nutrition at Surrey University, has shown that the mothers of dyslexic children have a low intake of the fatty acids during pregnancy. She has also shown that night blindness is often associated with dyslexia and that it can be corrected by adding Efalex capsules to the diet for a month.

Demonstrating that the capsules can also improve the symptoms of dyslexia will take several years of follow-up trials, and the manufacturers, Scotia Pharmaceuticals, are making no claims that it will do so.

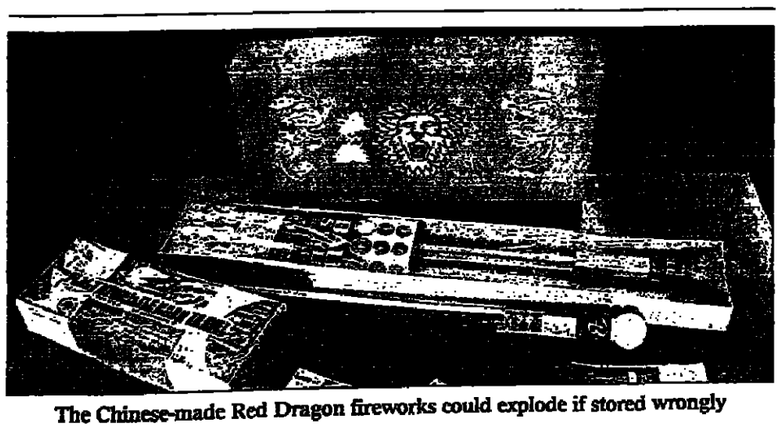
Dr David Horrobin, Scotia's chief executive, said: "Three university studies are now going on to investigate this. We are not suggesting that the capsules can replace the special educational programmes for dyslexic children, but we think they will help. We know that they can improve night blindness in dyslexic people, which is itself an important problem."

The strongest evidence that Efalex may help comes from a study done at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. Five researchers there studied the visual acuity of babies fed on breast milk, bottle milk or bottle milk reinforced with one of the fatty acids in Efalex.

They found that bottle-fed babies could not detect patterns as well as breast-fed ones, but that the deficiency was corrected if the formula milk contains the extra fatty acids found in breast milk. The theory is that those fatty acids are essential to the development of the brain and the optical system.

Efalex contains only natural materials already present in some foods, so can be sold without the lengthy clinical trials needed for a drug. The same fatty acids are also found in fish oil and evening primrose oil. Efalex will cost about £5 a week for the initial three months needed to raise fatty acids levels, and half as much thereafter.

If the supplement proves effective, one who may benefit is Oliver Middleton, 12, from Cambridge, who was diagnosed as dyslexic at the age of seven. Unhappy at school, he was eventually moved to another outside Cambridge with its own dyslexic unit. His mother, Julie Middleton, said: "Here they are taught and treated like normal children, which they are, not as lazy, thick, or naughty."



The Chinese-made Red Dragon fireworks could explode if stored wrongly

Fears over firework boom

Continued from page 1

cluded raising the age at which fireworks may be bought from 16 to 18, restricting over-the-counter sales to lower-grade fireworks, special licences for public displays and the introduction of a national training scheme for people giving displays.

Police issued a warning yesterday about the theft of hundreds of "very dangerous" display fireworks, which are designed to be ignited only by electric charge. Up to 600 giant rockets, 240 roman candles and hundreds of shells — all intended for a display and said to be capable of blowing off a person's hand — were taken from a compound in York overnight.

New warnings were given about unstable Red Lion, Thunderstorm and Black Cat fireworks from China, especially on Merseyside where firefighters will be on strike.

☐ Major displays tonight include:

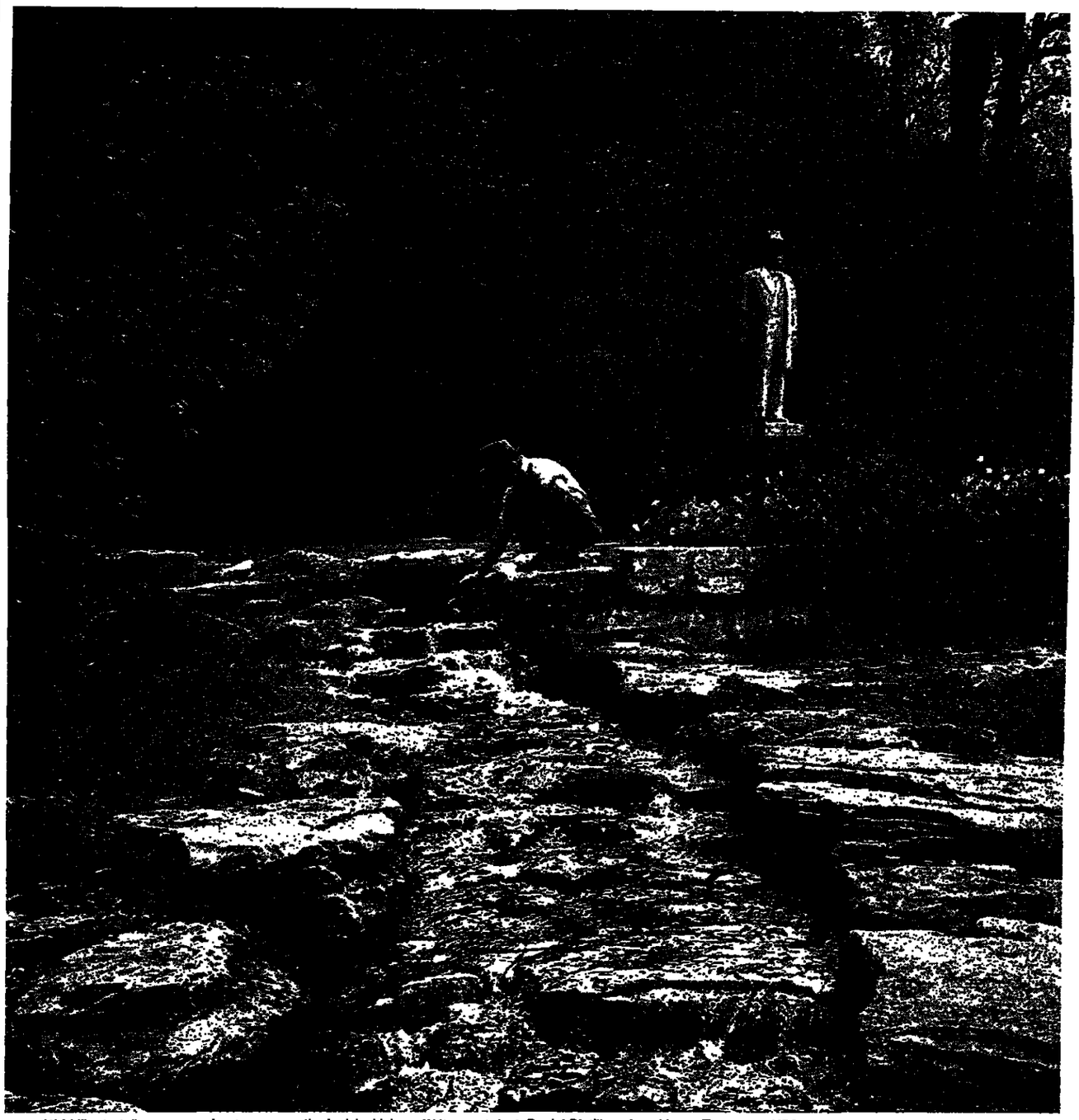
Bitts Park, Carlisle. Fireworks are lit from the castle battlements. Special commemorative display to mark the 250th anniversary of the Jacobites. Contact 01228 23411.

Calke Abbey, Ticknall, Derbyshire. Bonfire, firework display, disco, Punch and Judy, children's rides. Contact 01530 412125.

Alton Towers, Staffordshire. Experience more than 125 rides during the day and enjoy the fireworks free in the Also November 5. Contact 01538 702200.

Crystal Palace Park, London SE19. Entertainment, funfair and music. Contact 0181 778 9446.

Weekend, page 4



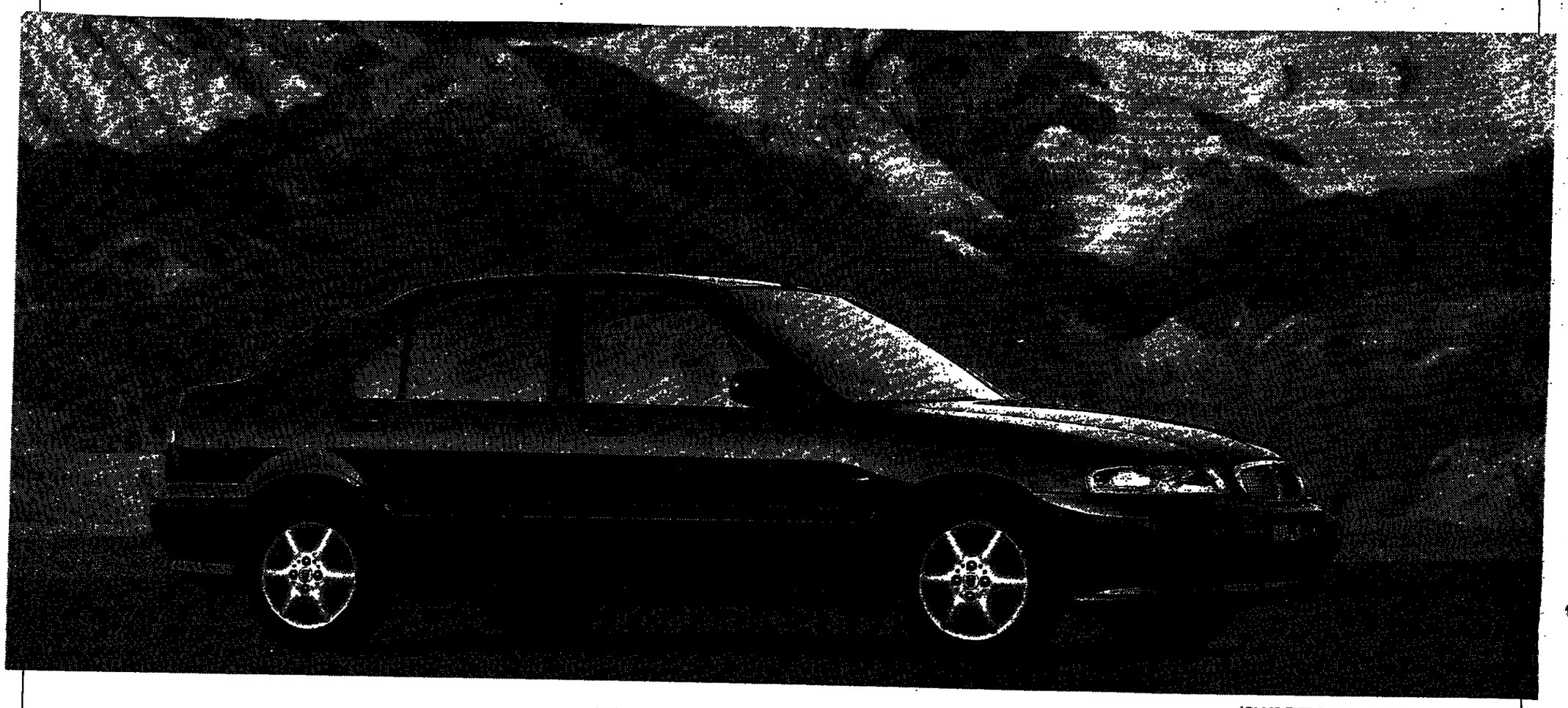
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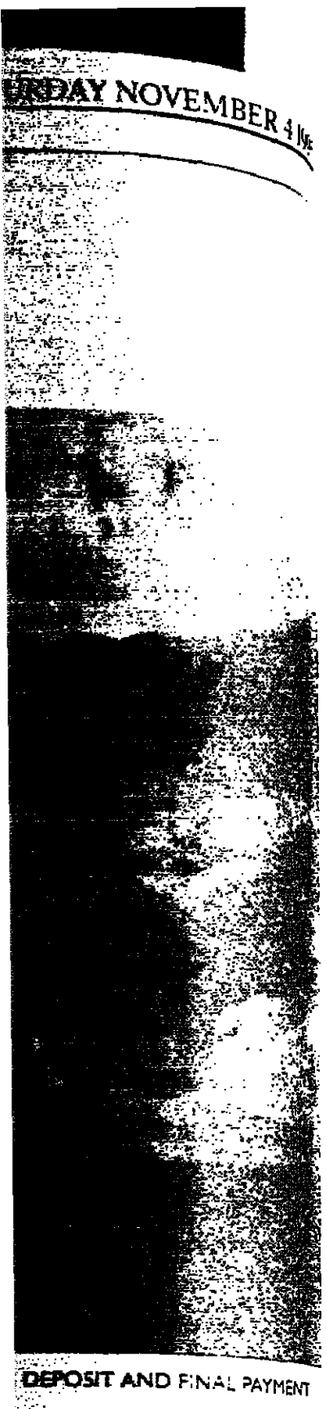
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DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT

NTH.

'Dukes are perhaps an easy target for the jealous and a thick skin is the best key to survival'

Ancient title rests uneasily on Northumberland's heir

BY PAUL WILKINSON

RALPH PERCY, the new Duke of Northumberland, said yesterday that he is dreading the responsibility that his title brings. In his first public comments since becoming the 12th duke on the death of his brother Harry last Tuesday, he spoke of the sudden change in lifestyle he must now experience.

"As a very private family man, public stature is quite a burden and it is with some trepidation that I take it on," he said. "I cannot say that Harry's death was totally unexpected, but it was still a great shock and because of his high media profile it has plunged me and my family into a world of publicity that is alien to us.

"I face this task with a great asset, my wife Jane. Without her love, loyalty and support it would be twice as hard. I also have a large and united family to help and tell me when I am doing wrong."

The duke, 38, is already familiar with running the huge family estates in Northumberland, having become chairman of its controlling company some time ago. His older brother had taken the more formal role of president as his debilitating ME-type ailment increasingly restricted his activities.



The late 11th duke: a romantic, say workers

The duke lives in a farmhouse on the Northumberland estate, 15 miles from the the family seat at Alnwick Castle. There have been suggestions that he is unwilling to move there. In his statement the duke showed his distress at press speculation that the death of his brother, 42, at Syon House, the family's west London home, may have been drug-related. He said: "In these dreadful last days, the press has in general been honest and kind about Harry and I, but the unscrupulous will always lie if it suits their purpose and it is upsetting to read articles based on lies. Dukes are perhaps an easy target for the jealous and a thick skin is the best key to survival."

He said that his brother had also found the responsibilities of nobility uncomfortable at times. "Harry did not find it easy to bear the title and the demands that were expected of him and he found escape and excitement in the film world.

"Despite a debilitating illness, Harry retained a great wit and intellect and relentlessly pursued his passion for films and the film world. He was enormously proud of his film *Lost in Africa*."

He described his brother's life as falling into two halves, with the early, vital days overtaken by illness. "He excelled at school, as a diligent pupil and an accomplished sportsman. He was a great all-rounder and was extremely popular. Following Harry through school was hard because of his success, and although I was in his shadow we were great friends and remained so throughout his life." Speaking of his future, the duke said: "I see my role as curator of an ancient seat and chairman of a large business. I am responsible for a substantial area of land over which many people work and take their leisure. I am also directly or indirectly responsible for the employment of several hundred people.

BRIAN MOODY



The new duke with his son George. "I would like to pass this estate to our heirs as good or better than it is now"

"If Jane and I can achieve one thing in our lives, we would like to pass this estate and heritage to our heirs in as good or better condition than it is now. In doing so we will continue to expand our charity work and help the local community as much as we can."

Workers on the Northumberland estate said in their own tribute that "Duke Harry", as he was known with affection, had left his mark on a distinguished dukedom. "Determined not to take on the traditional guise of a nobleman, he set his sights on being a modern man . . . The key to his quest was that he was a romantic, the measure of his success was that he was so engagingly and so endearingly romantic."

Family and close friends will today attend a private funeral at St Michael's Church, Alnwick. A public service will be held later.

Letters, page 21

Deal agreed to end union sponsorship of Labour MPs

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR'S ruling National Executive Committee will later this month approve a deal to end direct trade union sponsorship of MPs.

Senior party sources last night said Tony Blair had made clear that Labour had to be seen as "squeaky clean" in the light of the proposals in the Nolan report on standards in public life. Any apparent financial link between the unions and MPs had to end as soon as possible. Unions sponsor 150 MPs at a cost of about £600 each a year. They also pay up to 75 per cent of the MP's general election expenses.

Although under the present "Hastings Agreement" the money is paid to the MP's constituency, rather than his pocket, some of the money is used to fund MPs' research assistants or staff in their constituency office. Most unions also expect their sponsored MP to represent their interests in Parliament.

Under the new compromise deal, thrashed out by a working party of trade unionists and MPs over several months, unions will still pay their money to constituencies of their own choice, but they will no longer be able to sponsor an individual MP. This would prevent MPs being able to use union funds for their Commons research teams, although constituency office staff might still be allowed. "We will have to comply with Nolan," said one party source.

The Labour leadership had hoped that unions would agree to money being pooled so that it could be used to bolster the party in marginal constituencies in the run-up to the general election. However, many unions including the Transport and General Workers' Union, which sponsors Tony Blair, had baulked at the idea of losing total control over how their money was spent.

Party sources emphasised last night that unions would have the option of funding constituencies held by Tory MPs with a marginal majority, and it is likely that sponsored MPs will encourage their unions to do so where possible. However, it is expected that some unions will still insist their funds go to the constituencies they have supported hitherto. A party source admitted that it would be entirely up to the unions.

This week's report from the Commons Select Committee on Standards in Public Life on the disclosure of consultancies suggests that had the present system of trade union sponsorship continued, MPs would have to declare any funds paid by unions. However, under the new system, the money paid to constituencies would not have to be registered.

☐ Labour is demanding talks with the heads of executive agencies, such as the Prison Service, about the implementation of its policies, in advance of the general election (Nigel Williamson writes). John Major confirmed yesterday that he had agreed that the Opposition could begin talks with senior civil servants in January about its plans.

Opposition parties are customarily allowed to meet the permanent secretaries of Whitehall departments towards the end of a Parliament or when a general election had been called. Mr Major has agreed to the talks starting far earlier than usual. But Downing Street said yesterday that it had not yet been decided whether heads of agencies would be included in the talks.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Top Gun down!

'For five days all I had eaten was a few leaves. Then, as I lay curled up in the undergrowth, I saw



an ant crawl by my head. I reached out, squished it and popped it whole into my mouth . . .'

Captain Scott O'Grady, above, the American fighter pilot shot down in Bosnia last summer, tells the incredible story of his survival and rescue. Only in The Sunday Times tomorrow



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If you still have any tax returns for 1994/95 (or earlier years) to complete, get them back to us quickly along with any outstanding accounts.

If you have appealed, or are about to appeal, against an estimated tax assessment, send us the information so we can agree the right figures.

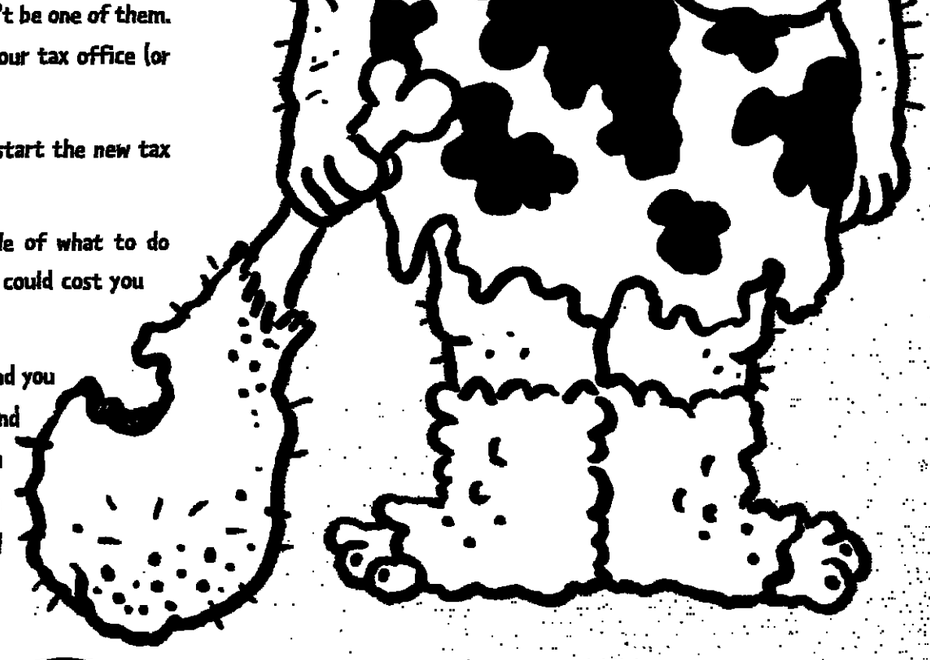
And if you have any unpaid tax bills, please settle them as soon as possible. If you can't pay all that you owe, contact your tax office. It may be possible for you to pay by instalments.

People get behind for all sorts of reasons. Fear needn't be one of them. If your affairs are in a muddle, get in touch with your tax office (or accountant if you have one) now.

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Jury listens to tape of Frederick West describing how he dismembered and buried his daughter

'I never intended to hurt her, I just went to shake her'

THE first taped interview with Frederick West heard by the court was conducted on February 25, 1994, the day he was arrested on suspicion of murdering Heather, his 16-year-old daughter. The tape began with a police officer cautioning West that he did not have to say anything but that anything he did say could be used in evidence against him.

"You have been arrested early this morning by my colleague on suspicion of murdering your daughter Heather West," the detective said. "Can you tell me, in your own words, exactly what you know about this?"

In a thick West Country accent, speaking quickly, West told the detective: "What happened was Heather was going to leave home the day before and we stopped her." He had asked her to stay the night to "talk it over". "Heather cried all night because she wanted to leave home. Rose said, 'Let her go. I will go out and draw money out. £600, and give her, and let her go.' I said, 'All right, then.' Rosemary went to get the money . . . I said, 'Don't hurry back and give me a chance to talk to Heather.' "

West told the interviewing officers, Detective Constables Hazel Savage and Darren Law, that the following morning he and Heather argued while Mrs West was shopping. "She's standing there with her hands on her hips . . . you know, the big lady business. She said, 'If you don't let me go, I'll give all the kids acid and they'll jump off the church roof and be dead on the floor.' I'd already known that she had given it to Barry [one of the Wests' younger children] because Barry had already jumped off the church roof.

"So she stood there and she had a sort of smile and a smirk on her face. I lunged at her . . . and grabbed her around the throat . . . she didn't bring her arms up to stop me and I held her for a minute.

"I can just remember lunging for her throat and the next minute she's gone blue. I looked at her and I was

HEATHER WEST

shaking from head to foot. I mean, what the heck had gone wrong?

"I put her on the floor, blowed air into her mouth, pumped on her chest and she just kept going bluer . . . I didn't know what to do. I didn't know when Rose was due to walk in.

"I never intended to hurt her. I mean, I just went to grab her, to shake her, to say, 'Take that stupid smirk off your face.' I was going to smack her across the face but some years before me and Rose had a word or two, I smacked her



Heather West: remains found beneath patio

across the face and dislocated her jaw.

"Heather was just flat out and I thought I've got to do something . . . I was going to put her in the Wendy house. I tried to get her in the dustbin, I couldn't get her in. At that time we used to have one of those big ice saws for cutting big blocks of ice, so I cut her legs off with that, and I'm telling you I have lived that a million times since.

"Then I cut her head off, then I put her in the bin and put the lid on, rolled it down to the bottom of the garden behind the Wendy house, covered it up and left it there. Then Rose must have come back . . . and she said, 'Did you persuade Heather to stay?' I said she had decided to go and that was it. I sent Rose out . . . with the current bloke to stay with him for the night. Then I went down and I dug this hole and buried [Heather] down behind the fence."

Later West laid a patio over the grave, he told detectives. During the interviews he gave a precise location for his daughter's body, knowing that excavations were about to begin at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester. Asked by Ms Savage what sort of grave the police should be looking for, he said: "Just a hole in the ground." Ms Savage: "And what's going to be in this hole in the ground?" West: "Heather." Ms Savage: "In how many pieces?" West: "Two legs and a head and a body."

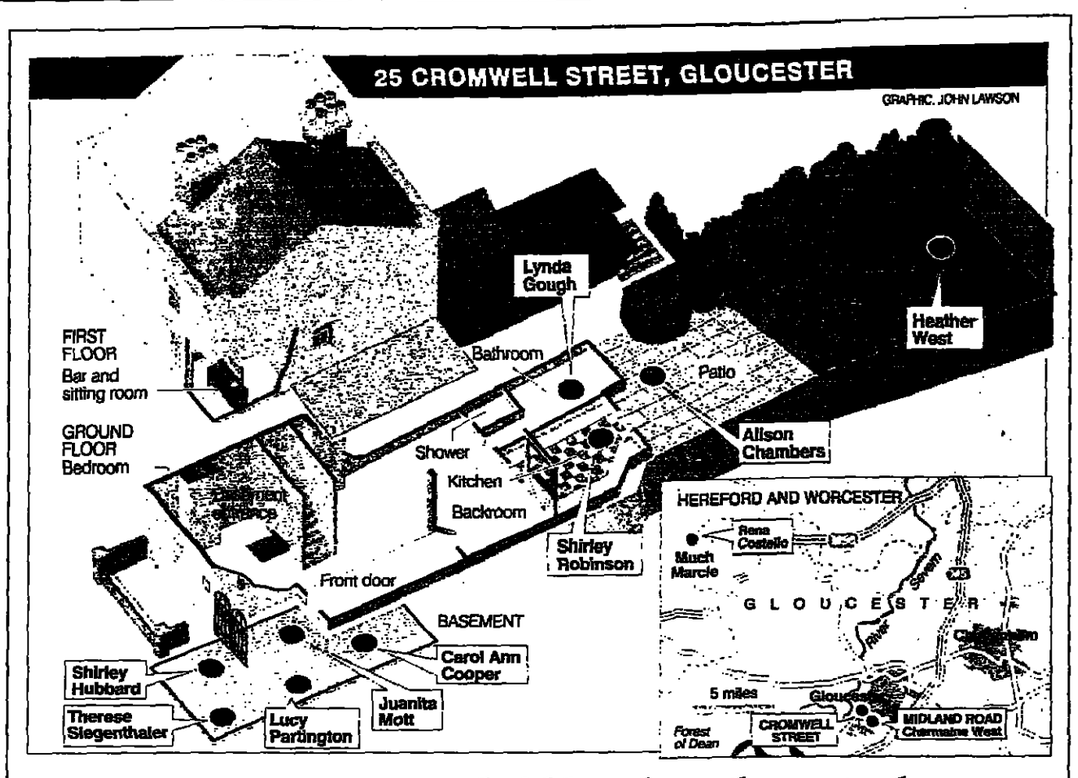
He is asked about the weapon he used to dismember his daughter's body. "It would be probably just over a foot in length and it's got big teeth blades on the one side. It's reasonably rigid, it has got to cut ice."

West was asked if his clothing had become bloodstained. "No, not to my knowledge . . . she was quite cold, really cold, before I decided what to do with her.

"I took her in the downstairs bathroom and put cold water flannels on her face. That is something I've had to live with for eight years. It's not easy, because I loved Heather and that's why I was trying to persuade her not to go."

Ms Savage said: "And what have you told Rose about Heather's whereabouts ever since?" West: "That she'd left home . . . gone down to Brighton or Bournemouth. The thing I'd like to stress . . . Rose knew nothing at all. Rose used to say, 'Christ, I wish we'd try and get in contact and find out where Heather is.' Although they didn't get on, she still loved her."

Rosemary West, 41, has denied murdering nine girls and a young woman, including Heather. The trial continues on Monday.



Lovers were killed when they threatened to tell Rosemary

25 CROMWELL STREET

WEST identified sites in the basement of Cromwell Street where he said the remains of young women could be found. The only identities he could remember were those of Lucy Partington and Lynda Gough. "There's so many . . . all these girls I've had affairs with and that's why they ended up this way because they threatened to tell Rose.

"Cos what happened — all these girls did exactly the same thing. I was made quite clear that I was married to Rose and I don't want nothing to do with them, nothing serious — it was just 'thank you mam, finished'.

"And every one of them did exactly the same thing . . . I love you, I'm pregnant, I'm going to tell Rose, I want you to come and live with me and that was a problem."

Asked how many of the girls were pregnant, he said he did not know. West agreed it would not be difficult for police to reach the remains of Lynda Gough, who, he said, was buried in what had been a car-repair pit beneath a garage now converted into a bathroom. Her body was "quite deep", he said. No other bodies were in the pit, he said.

There were also no other bodies beneath the ground floor of the house, he said. "The reason . . . was because they would have been too close to Rose," he told police.

Other bodies were under the cellar, he said, explaining how he had altered the access to the cellar over the years. The first spot beneath the cellar, where he indicated that a body would be found, had been used for "a girl from Newent [a small town near Gloucester]", he said.

After being told that the girls' bodies were being numbered, he said "Body One is right in the fireplace of the basement. As you go down the stairs there's a fireplace straight in front of you."

He said of the victim: "She and I had an affair. I think she was Dutch or something. I had an affair with her. She was having a holiday over here, and then she threatened to tell Rose."

He could not remember the girls' names. West told the officers. "I have no idea what their names are. I knew the names at the time, but I have no idea now . . . they are all around the 17 to 20 mark."

West was also asked: "Is there anything you want to say about what we have talked about so far, with regard to other offences?"

West replied: "No, there is no other offences." The officer asked him about other bodies. West replied: "No, there ain't any."

West was then quizzed about a young girl in Newent whom he was said to have raped twice. Again he angrily denied the allegation. He claimed that they had gone together for two years.

The interviewing officer suggested that he found it difficult to cope with allegations of rape. West replied: "I never raped anybody." The officer pointed out that he killed people. West told the interviewer: "You even get killing wrong, you are trying to make out I went out blatantly killing people."

The officer suggested that some of the victims had gone through hell. West replied: "Not all went through hell . . . enjoyment turned to disaster, or most of it anyway."

And he admitted: "It is your job to investigate this thing and not to believe what I say altogether." As the fourth tape continued, West indicated his concern at the number of statements the police were collecting about him. A detective said that many were needed to establish facts, such as who was living at 25 Cromwell Street during the time of the deaths.

When West again referred to the large number of statements he was aware of, Detective Constable Hazel Savage told him: "You ain't seen nothing yet."

Murders started with Rena and child of seven

FIRST WIFE

WEST told police that his killings had begun with the murders of his first wife Rena Costello and his stepdaughter Charmaine. West was with Howard Ogden, his solicitor; Scott Canavan, the solicitor's clerk; and an "appropriate adult", Janet Leach, when he was interviewed again by Detective Constables Darren Law and Hazel Savage.

Constable Savage asked: "What was the very first body?" West, replied quietly: "That was Rena." It happened, he said, after Rena came to collect Charmaine. "That is exactly true. My main problem was Rose in finding out what was going on."

Rena had threatened Rosemary, and Rena had gone round to 25 Midland Road to collect Charmaine, West said. He had taken them to a pub and ensured that his wife became "absolutely paralytic". Charmaine, aged seven at the time, had been given a bottle of lager to drink so she would fall asleep.

Having made Rena Costello drunk, West then drove to an isolated field. "I took her out to Dymock in the country and I strangled her and buried her. "Charmaine . . . was sound asleep and I'd forgotten all about her. I strangled Rena, dug the hole, cut her up and buried her and then I went back to the van and there was Charmaine in the back.

"So anyway, I strangled her while she was sleeping 'cos there's no way I could have touched her any other way. I wrapped her up in the back and drove back to 25 Midland Road. There was a garage up the side . . . and you could go out of the back into another little workshop and underneath the house into the basement. And I put her in there. Then I buried her there."

West was reminded that he had seemed to suggest that Charmaine was the only victim who was not mutilated. He said: "She was young, she was seven, she was pure."

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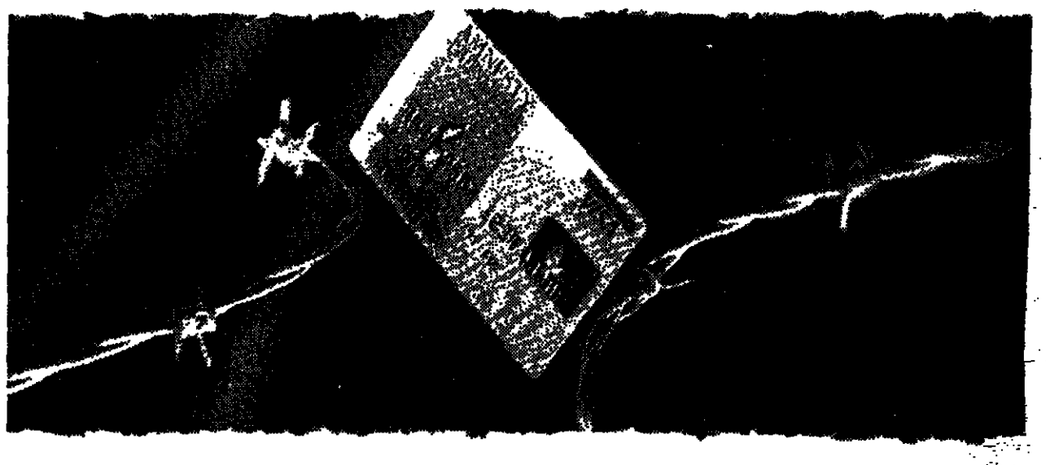
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ed his daughter

Murders started with Rena and child of seven

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INTERNATIONAL

'My main purpose has been to protect person or persons and there's nothing else I'm going to say'

West said he picked up women for sex and strangled them

QUESTIONED about the murder of those victims whose names he could not recall, West told detectives that he had taken one young woman home in his van after "knocking her out cold". Once at Cromwell Street he dragged her into the basement, put her on the floor and then strangled her.

"I took her clothes off to make it easier to fold her up," he said. The young woman was then buried. He told detectives that he now thought two of the girls were from the Worcester area, and said he was earlier mixed up about whether another victim was Dutch or German.

West said two of his victims were prostitutes he had picked up in his lorry. Telling detectives of the first he said: "I picked her up in Worcester and the next minute she was messing about with me while I'm driving. So anyway I stopped, went in the first place I could, and that was it. We made love."

He said the pair had almost reached Tewkesbury when the girl said "'That'll be a fiver', or something. 'You don't forget to pay me.'"

West said: "I said to her I don't carry money. She, 'you'll pay me or I'll report you'. I said, 'report me for what?', and she said, 'you raped me'. So I stopped the lorry and we had a right set-to, and the next minute I smacked her up against a window and she just dropped, and um, anyway I

OTHER VICTIMS

strangled her or held my hands round her neck."

West then said he drove home and took her into the basement where he was already excavating to put in a new bathroom. "So I just put her in, in the hole I had there, and filled it up."

West then said he was driving a lorry for a living at the time, but had no recollection of when the killings took place. He said he would "just get rid of what I'd done and be done with it without Rose knowing".

He said he again remembered little of his next victim, who he picked up outside Worcester. When he refused her demands for money after they had sex, she said 'You're the sort of person who goes with slags' or something to that effect."

West then said: "As soon as she said that, I thought of Rose, and Rose is no slag, as far as I was concerned. So I went for her, and then the same thing happened."

One officer pointed out that the previous evening, when he was taken to the cellar and had used spray paint to mark the positions where bodies would be found, the areas marked were "half the size of this table", about three foot by three foot.

He was asked: "Did you take their clothes off? Were they naked when you buried them, or not?"

Asked if he had mutilated one body, West said: "I can't see how I could have cut her up with Rose asleep above that room."

West was then asked about the "Dutch girl". He told detectives he also picked her up at Worcester. "I just hit her. She went up against the window (of his lorry), she was out cold," he said.

For some reason he urgently had to get home and rang Rose, who was going out, to make sure she would not be there when he arrived.

West told the officers he took the girl — "she was still alive, still out cold" — down to the basement where there was already a hole where he had dug out an old fireplace. "I put her on the floor and I strangled her. I think she was shoved into the hole, almost sat up."

He said he had taken her clothes off to make it easier to fold her up. He put her clothes in a black plastic bag which he left out for the dustmen.

Detective Constable Darren Law told the court that West told lie after lie during the interviews. However, on April 29 he was to tell police that he had not told them "the whole truth". Reading from a prepared statement West said: "From the first of this inquiry my main purpose has been to protect person or persons and there's nothing else I'm going to say at this moment."



The tapes of police interviews with West, pictured here last year, were played to the court yesterday. He said that "enjoyment turned to disaster" in his affairs

Rape victim was lured to house for lesbian affair

CAROLINE OWENS

IN A taped interview lasting 45 minutes, West was asked about the attack on Caroline Owens. He said he picked her up to involve his wife Rosemary in lesbian affairs. West said: "I had no intention of going too far with Rose that night. Anyway, it was just to try her on lesbianism and see how she would react to it. That's all it went, it really went wrong after that. After that Rose was not involved in anything."

West told the police officer there was no thought of killing Caroline Owens at that stage. He added: "I am not saying it would not have went that far if Rose had acted differently, I suppose." The officer asked West what he would have done if Mrs West had enjoyed it.

West replied: "I had not thought that far ahead. I think it would have went a lot further. I would have probably have taken her back home, put her in bondage. But Rose did not want to know about it. Never mind what the girl said. Rose did not want to know."

West maintained that his wife never had anything to do with bondage. He added: "We tried it in later life but no way did Rose have anything to do with it. I realised that Rose was not into that sort of thing and that was it. The other thing in my mind was the fact I killed Rena and Charmaine and I thought, 'Jesus, if Rose gets to know about that where is it going to end?'."

An officer suggested that he might not have found it too hard to kill Mrs Owens, who gave evidence earlier in the trial. West maintained that it probably would have happened. He said: "I think I would have went too far with it if Rose had been willing. I had to stop it quick because Rose was not into it.

"Once Rose touched her and she screamed, then that was Rose finished. Rose just said, 'Drop her home'. "I said, 'I can't'. I couldn't just take her and drop her like that." Asked why he could not have taken the girl home, he said: "She would go screaming and ten minutes later we would have the cops at the door."

Asked about the rape of Caroline Owens, he said Mrs West was not there at the time. "Rose backed completely out of it," he said. When a detective told West that the officers were not paranoid about involving Mrs West in the case, West stood by his replies that his wife was not involved. "Me and Rose never went out to pick anybody up, to harm anybody," he insisted. "Whatever girls I knew, it was nothing to do with Rose."

'She come the loving racket and wanted to live with me'

IN THE second taped interview, West was asked about Lucy Partington, who was a student at Exeter University. She disappeared on December 27, 1973, after leaving a friend's house in Cheltenham to catch a bus home. Asked if she was one of the victims in the cellar, West replied: "Yeah, she's there."

He claimed to have had an affair with Miss Partington after meeting her on a boating lake at Pittville Park, Cheltenham. He told the interviewing officers he used to call her "Juicy Lucy".

He said that he could not describe the girl because it was so long ago. Detective Constable Hazel Savage: "But you remembered me." West:

LUCY PARTINGTON

"Let's be honest, I mean when you and I first met, you gotta to be about the beautifulest woman in Gloucestershire, weren't you?" DC Savage: "All right, let's stop the rubbish, Fred."

West began to explain how he killed Miss Partington and took her back to Cromwell Street. "I used to drop her at the bus, so I met her this night, and what she'd done, she'd found our phone number. She come the loving racket, and was gonna give this boyfriend up and wanted to come and live with me, and all this rubbish that they come up with. We had a row over it, and I mean it was always made clear to these girls that there was no affair. It was just purely sex, end of story, and if they ever tried to threaten to tell my wife of anything, they could be in serious trouble."

Leter he said: "I just grabbed her by the throat and then I drove back to Gloucester. I brought the van up over the pavement, then I knocked the engine and lights out, and let him cruise down to the back." A ramp on the pavement let him drive to the side of the house.

The basement was reached by a "hole" and by a flight of steps. He indicated to officers where in the basement he believed the body was buried.

Reports by BILL FROST and RICHARD DUCE

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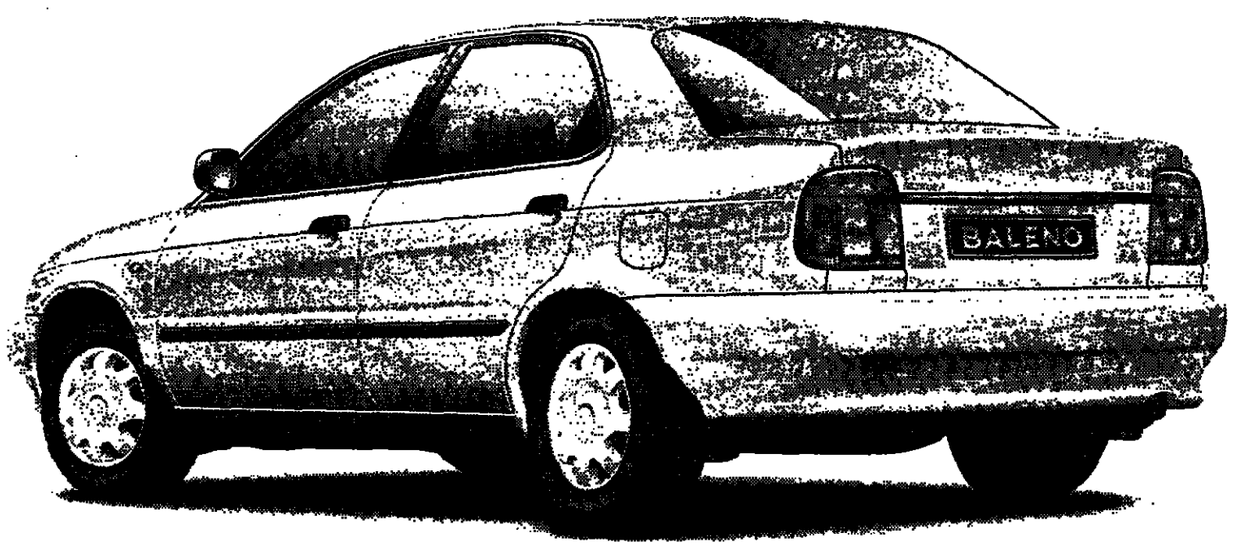
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SUZUKI

Ban on gays in Forces survives appeal

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's ban on homosexuality in the Armed Forces survived another legal challenge yesterday when the Court of Appeal rejected the case of four former service personnel discharged for being gay.

However, in his judgment Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, implicitly criticised the ban, saying "to dismiss a person from his or her employment on the grounds of a private sexual preference, and to interrogate him or her about private sexual behaviour, would not appear to me to show respect for that person's private and family life".

Sir Thomas, who denied the three men and a woman leave to appeal to the House of Lords, said their claim that the Government's policy was "irrational" could not be substantiated because, at the time of their discharge, the ban on homosexuality was supported by both Houses of Parliament and "by those to whom the Ministry of Defence properly looked for professional advice". Nevertheless, there had been a "discernible trend" in Britain towards greater understanding and tolerance of homosexuals, which was "an important feature of this case".

The four appellants — Duncan Lustig-Prean, a former Lieutenant-Commander in the Royal Navy, Graeme Grady, a former RAF sergeant, Jeanette Smith, an ex-Navy nurse, and John Beckett, a naval weapons engineer — said Sir Thomas's judgment appeared to encourage them to take their case to the Law Lords. Lawyers acting for the four said if this failed, they would pursue the matter to the European Court of Human Rights. David Pannick, QC, acting for three of the appellants, told Sir Thomas: "We'll be off to Strasbourg on the first available plane".

Mr Lustig-Prean said later he was saddened by the "hornpipe of homophobia" in the Services and would fight on.

Sultan of Brunei's brother pays £243m for troubled royal jeweller

The shop for people who have oil and money to burn

BY ALAN HAMILTON

ASPREY, once the quintessence of refined British upper-class luxury, may in recent years have become something of a bauble bazaar for the world's oil potentates, but it remains one of the world's leading purveyors of things you never realised you needed.

Nothing so vulgar as price tags graces the goods in its Bond Street windows but, once through the door beneath a festoon of royal warrants, the shopper leaves traditional English taste behind and enters a world of price tickets written in telephone numbers.

Yesterday the most expensive item on display was a pair of German-carved rock crystal rearing horses with saddles and bridles in 18-carat gold, at £530,000 the pair. Too small at only a foot high? Then how about a pair of life-size panthers in oxidised silver, with gold claws and a dozen diamonds stuffed up their gilded noses, at £450,000?

Asprey keeps a discreet side room for displays of the truly bizarre, perhaps because no self-respecting client would wish to perform in public the act of paying £500,000 for an indescribably hideous gold and malachite mantelpiece clock surmounted by a pair of electrically driven mounted polo players who swing their mallets on the hour. Even the on-off switch is encrusted with diamonds and rubies.

Too unutterably brash? Then how about an 18in-high box of silver gilt and finest blue lapis lazuli, with a jewelled handle sticking out of the side and a glass slot in the top? It is, on closer inspection, a genuine and fully working one-armed bandit. At £250,000, it is affordable only to those who have enjoyed a remarkable run of luck on the Strip in Las Vegas.

By contrast, the trilling trinkets on the front counter seem positively utilitarian. For £15 you can pick up a gold-plated device that attaches a wine glass to the rim of a plate, thereby allowing the user one free hand with which to eat at stand-up buffets.

And what lady of quality would contemplate setting out for a restaurant without her personal £28 handbag-sized gold pepper mill? There is obviously some rich corner of the Earth where restaurants are constantly running out of pepper.

Founded in 1781 and for most of its life a private family business, Asprey's style changed in the Eighties. It became a publicly quoted company and its newly installed chief executive, the Palestinian businessman and socialite Naim Attallah, found new and brisk business among Middle Eastern customers, the new super-rich of the oil sheikhdoms.

The company won a Queen's Award for export in 1986. It was rumoured at one stage that 40 per cent of Asprey's income came from only ten clients, including the Sultans of Brunei and Oman.

From its original Bond Street base, the company ventured on a perilous expansion, swallowing up Garrards — its only serious rival — Mappin and Webb, Watches of Switzerland and the Edinburgh crown jeweller Hamilton and Inches. Expansion has cost the company dear, however: a £25.4 million profit for 1993-94 was replaced by a £9.8 million loss for 1994-95. The sultans and the sheikhs are not as fabulously rich as they once were.

Even in the lean Nineties, Asprey manages to cling to a vestige of style in its dealings, if not taste in its merchandise. Even if you step inside to pick up a free catalogue, the staff will put it in a swanky carrier bag for you.

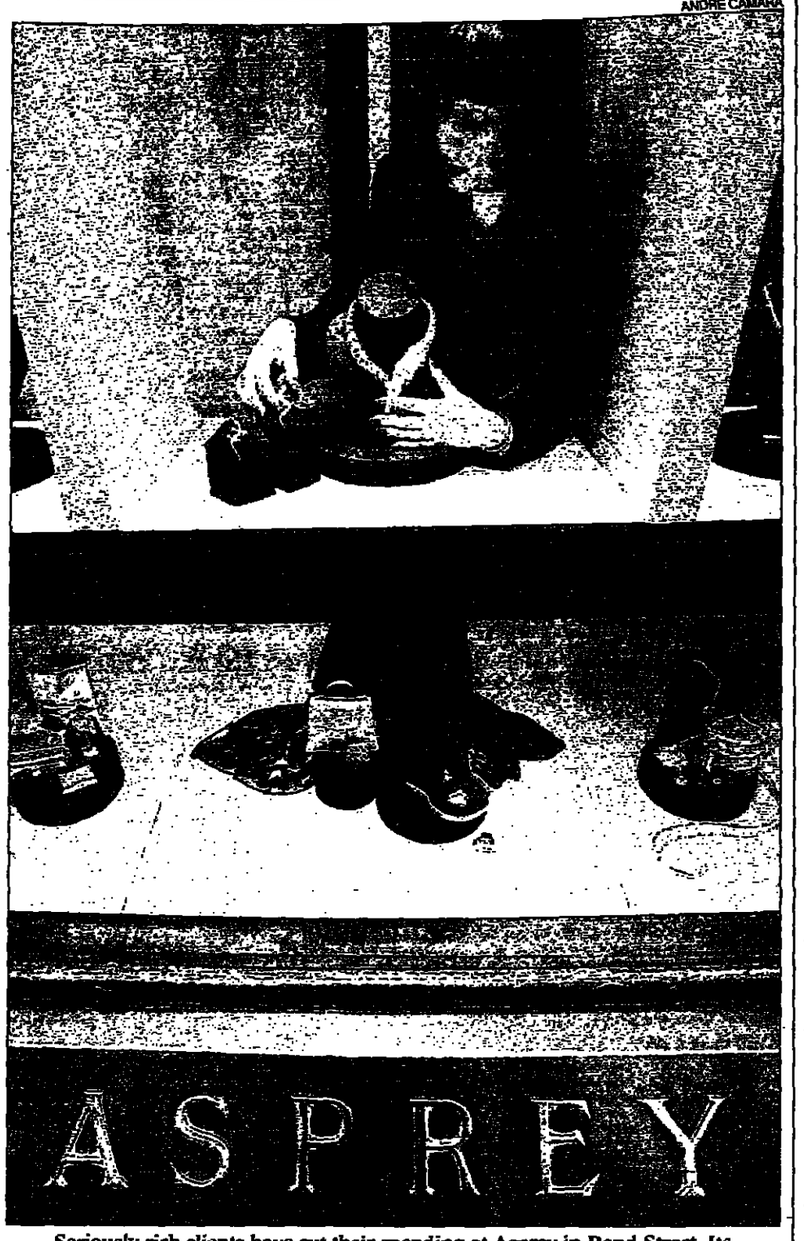
James Bartholomew, page 20

THE SALE

Asprey, the Bond Street luxury goods group and jeweller to the Queen, confirmed yesterday that it was being sold for £243.5 million to His Royal Highness Prince Jefri Bolkiah of Brunei, the brother of the Sultan of Brunei, the world's richest man. Prince Jefri offered to buy the financially troubled retail group. He has had links with the company for years and broached the idea of investing in it this summer. John Asprey, chairman, will continue as group chairman.

Business News, page 25

ANDRE CAMARA



Seriously rich clients have cut their spending at Asprey in Bond Street. Its £25.4 million profit in 1993-94 was replaced by a £9.8 million loss for 1994-95

Playboy prince revels in world of high-speed spending

BY ALAN HAMILTON

ONCE again, Asprey is in the hands of the preposterously rich, a shrinking breed in the spare and slimmed-down Nineties. Prince Jefri Bolkiah is the younger brother of the Sultan of Brunei, a man whose reputed £20 billion fortune is based mainly on the oil revenues from his tiny state in north Borneo, and with whom Queen Elizabeth II is by comparison a deserving social security case.

Prince Jefri's extravagance is legendary. When he stayed at his elder brother's London *pied-à-terre*, the Dorchester in Park Lane, where mere suites tend towards the £1,000 a night bracket, he would book three whole floors of the hotel. When Jaguar launched its desirable but impossibly expensive XJ-220 model, at £419,000 one of the most costly production cars ever offered for sale, Prince Jefri ordered four.

The prince, aged 46, is currently converting the Playboy Club, a near neighbour of the Dorchester in Park Lane and once the haunt of gambling-obsessed Arab millionaires in the high-rolling days of petrodollars, into one of the largest and most luxurious palaces in London. It threatens to make the headquarters of our native monarchy at the bottom of The Mall look like public-sector housing by comparison.

Prince Jefri is also reportedly in negotiation to buy the former headquarters of MI5 in nearby Curzon Street, which the Government has put up for sale with a price tag of £50 million. What he intends to do with it is not entirely clear.

The Brunei family has at least five substantial homes in London. They own three mansions on Bishop's Avenue, the so-called millionaires' row in Hampstead, north London, which is famous for the vulgarity of its facades as well as for the wealth of its residents.



Prince Jefri Bolkiah: he bought four Jaguars

Prince Jefri is converting one of the houses into a gymnasium. "It is an extraordinary project: I cannot ever remember someone in London turning a whole house into a gym for their personal use; not even Princess Diana has her own gym," a north London estate agent said yesterday.

Links between Britain and Brunei are traditionally strong. The present Sultan's father was such an admirer of Sir Winston Churchill that he created a museum to the wartime prime minister in the Brunei capital, Bandar Seri Begawan. Brunei, fearful of incursions from Indonesia, which occupies the greater part of the island of Borneo, has a detachment of the British Army's Brigade of Gurkhas on permanent station in its minute oil-rich state.

John Asprey, group chairman and a direct descendant of the group's 18th-century founder, said: "My family and I have known Prince Jefri and his family for many years. He and his family are important customers of the Asprey group."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Killer of violent lover is freed

A woman who strangled her lover with his football scarf after ten years of brutal treatment was freed by Lord Clyde at the High Court in Edinburgh. Davina McAulay, 35, who admitted culpable homicide, killed Daniel Mann at their home in Perth.

The judge deferred sentence for a year and described Mann as a monster. The court was told Mann, 42, was a violent alcoholic and drug user obsessed with the occult, Hitler and the Foreign Legion.

Aquatic attraction

A national aquarium is to be built on a waterside site in Plymouth. The 40,000 sq ft project, which is receiving a £3.7 million grant from the European Union, will have two reefs and a shark tank and is expected to attract 500,000 people a year.

Arsonist jailed

A man who set fire to several homes and his boss's car was jailed for eight years by Snaresbrook Crown Court. Jason Full, 26, of Nazeing, Essex, admitted three sample counts of arson and an offence involving recklessness as to endangering life.

£172,000 chair

A high-backed oak chair made nearly 100 years ago by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the Glaswegian architect and designer, for the city's Argyle Street tearooms sold at Sotheby's in London yesterday for £172,000.

Drug plot foiled

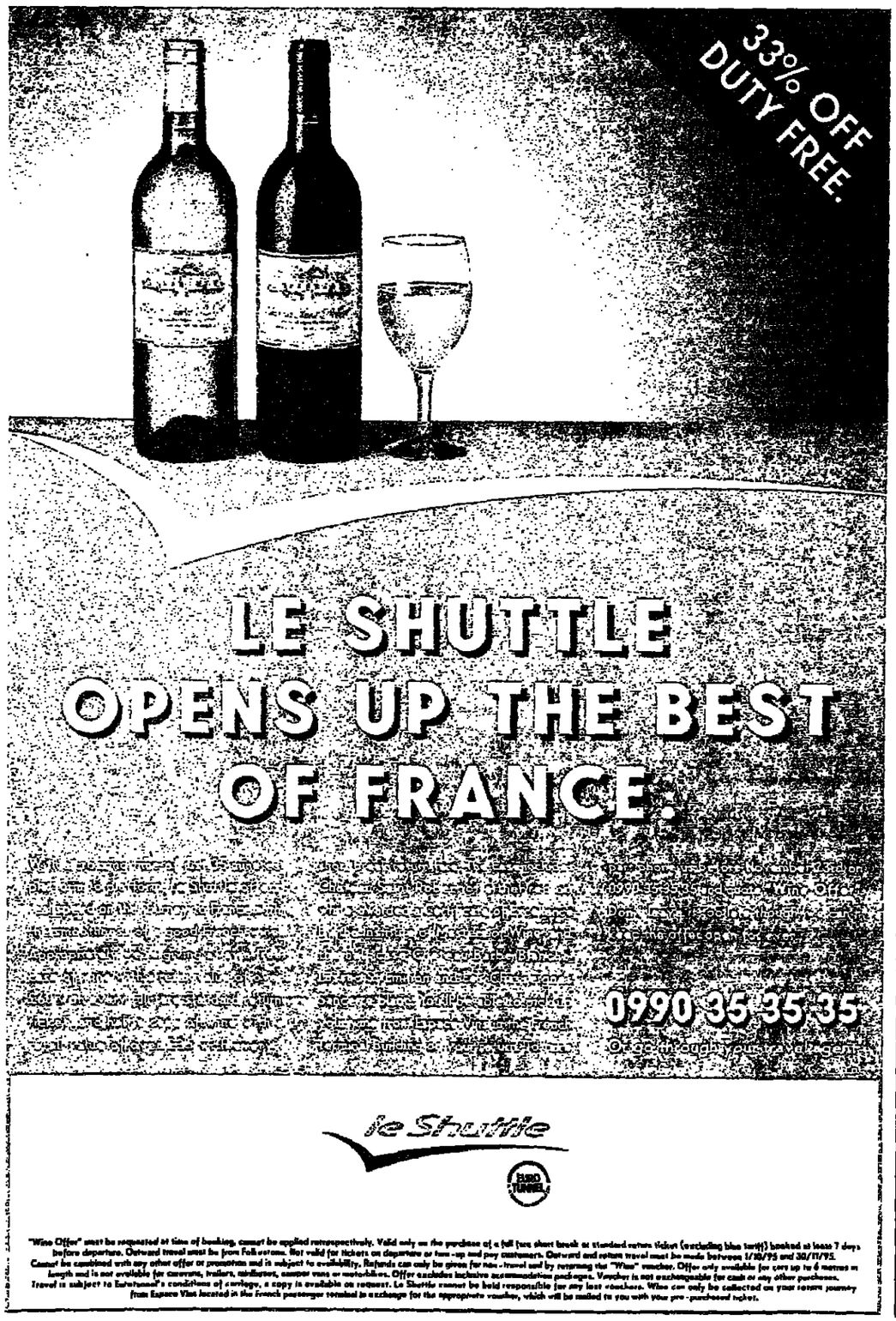
Islwyn Jones, 61, and his wife Evelyn, 59, of Cardiff, admitted at Tavistock Magistrates' Court using a boy aged 14 to try to smuggle drugs to their son in jail. They were given six-month suspended sentences and each fined £200.

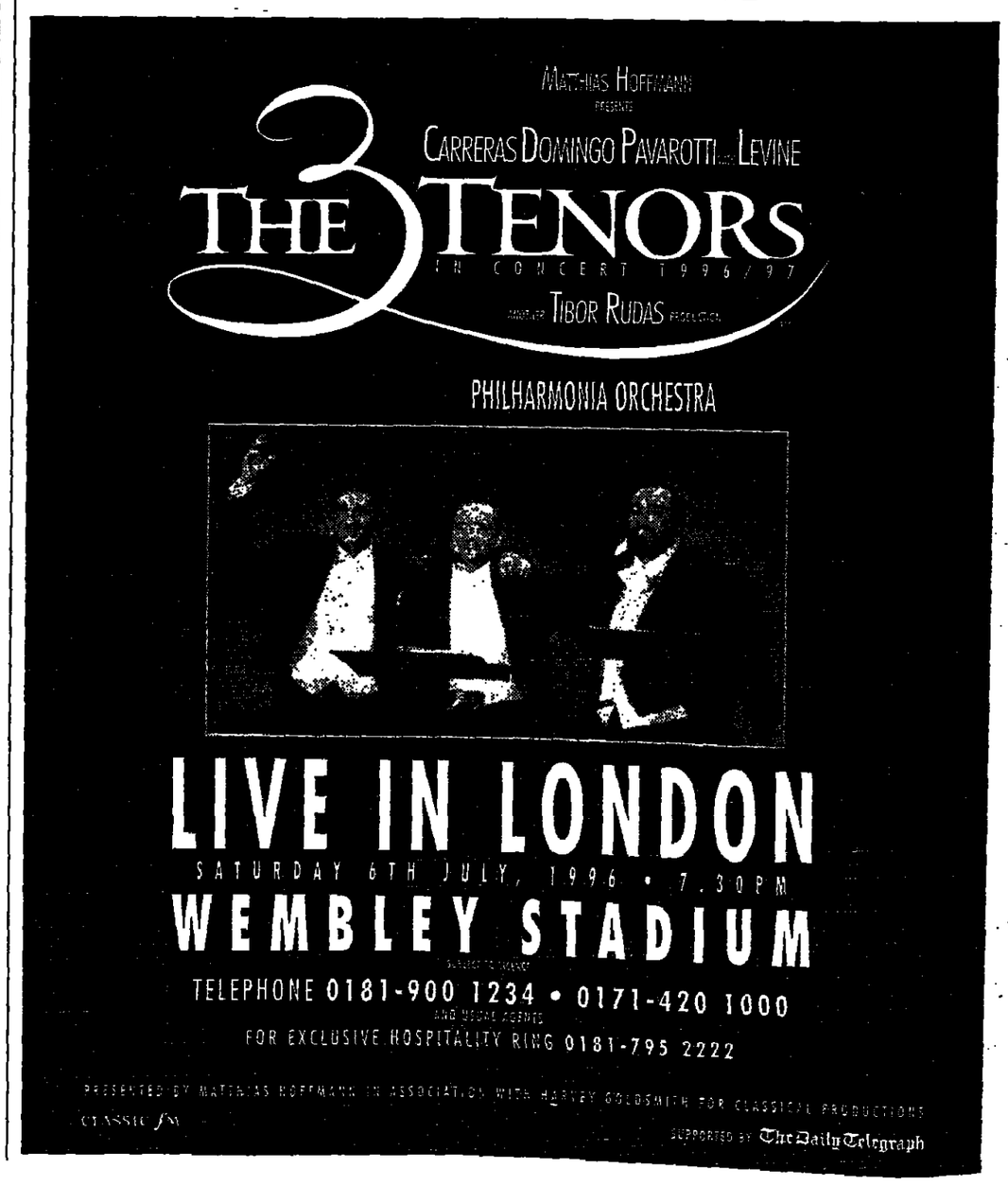
Mother's denial

The mother of Rikki Neave denied his murder when she appeared at Oxford Crown Court. Rikki, 6, was found strangled near his Peterborough home. Ruth Neave, 27, was remanded in custody. The trial is due next summer.

Magpie theft

Thieves stole a football from the statue of Jackie Milburn, the former Newcastle United centre-forward. The ball was at the foot of the city centre statue. "It is very heavy and would require more than one person to take it," police said.





Research shows new policy could save 1,000

Women are denied double X-ray checks for cancer

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MOST women screened for breast cancer still receive only one X-ray of each breast, despite research showing that more cancers would be detected with two X-rays.

More than a million women a year are screened for breast cancer but only those attending for the first time, between a quarter and a third of the total, receive two X-rays taken from different angles. Second and subsequent attenders receive only one.

The change in policy, announced last January and introduced in August, followed early results from a trial of 40,000 women screened for the first time which showed that using two X-rays detected 24 per cent more cancers than a single X-ray. Two X-rays taken at different angles make it easier to spot small lumps in the breast which may be malignant.

They also reduce the number of women recalled for further tests who turn out not to have cancer but are needlessly alarmed.

A spokeswoman for the NHS breast screening programme said that two X-rays were not necessary in second and subsequent screenings because the earlier X-rays would be available for comparison. Something that looked doubtful on a current X-ray could be checked to see if it was present at the earlier screening.

However, the final report of the trial by Professor Nicholas Wald, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, central London, published in today's *British Medical Journal*, says: "The availability of a previous film for comparison is not a substitute for a second view."

It says that in all but one of 23 women whose cancer was missed by a single X-ray but detected with two X-rays that their breasts were described as normal. "Hence it was rare to find a lesion that could be looked for in an earlier film to see if it had progressed." The researchers estimate that 99 extra lives per 100,000 women screened will be saved over 15 years if two X-rays are used "over all screening examinations". Of the 1.2 million women screened in 1992-93, this would mean an extra 1,000 lives saved.

Although the results are based on women who were screened for the first time, the paper says: "There will continue to be a medical benefit in using two-view mammography at subsequent screening examinations, though the size of the benefit is less certain. Even with a small benefit the cost per case detected would be similar to that with one-view mammography."

Dr Julie Cooke, director of the Jarvis breast screening centre in Guildford, which is attended by 26,000 women a year, rejected Professor Wald's conclusion. "It is a slightly sweeping statement for which there is no scientific evidence at present. His study was based on first attenders. Women do not need two views at every screening."

Dr Cooke said she had had no complaints about the switch to two mammograms for first attenders. "A mammogram can be uncomfortable for a number of women — about 10 per cent — partly because the breast is squashed and partly because for the first view from the side the edge of the X-ray plate has to be pressed into the armpit. But the second view from above is more comfortable."

She said some women worried about the radiation dose but this was low and the benefit in terms of lives saved by detecting extra cancers far outweighed it.

All women aged between 50 and 64 are invited for breast screening every three years. Older women are entitled to free screening on request. Younger women must be referred by their GPs.

ADAM BUTLER



Marti Caine was given two years to live in 1988, when doctors diagnosed cancer

Sick Caine forced to bow out of panto

THE actress Marti Caine, who has fought a seven-year battle against cancer, is back in hospital and has had to cancel her pantomime appearance. "She is undergoing treatment to counter a reaction to previous medication," her spokeswoman said yesterday.

Caine, 50, had been in hospital for "just over a week" and it was not an emergency admission, the spokeswoman said. "It is expected she will be able to leave hospital shortly, but she will need a recovery period and that will preclude her from her pantomime commitments."

The actress, who is being treated in St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, was given two years to live in 1988 when doctors diagnosed cancer of the lymph glands. She underwent a bone marrow transplant in 1992.

Caine had planned to play the Red Queen in Snow White in Basingstoke. She had to pull out of the same role in 1992, when doctors advised against the twice-daily performances.

Church schools unite against opting-out plan

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ANGLICAN and Roman Catholic bishops are preparing a "united front" to oppose government plans to force all denominational schools to opt out of their local authorities.

This would include moves in the House of Lords to block any legislation depriving parents of church school pupils of their right to choose the status of their school.

Church leaders have been prompted to act by the Government's plan for a "fast track" to grant-maintained status for the 4,032 voluntary aided schools run by the churches and local authorities. Fewer than 350 have chosen to opt out.

The leaders have until November 24 to respond to proposals that include scrapping parental ballots, removing local authority members from governing boards and setting a deadline for all the aided schools to become grant-maintained unless they apply to stay "opted in".

One senior Anglican said: "You will find there will be a united front between the Anglicans and Roman Catholics on this. They are planning a strong response, and certainly parents of church schools would not want to have their rights reduced." The Catholic Church's formal response to the proposals is due to be decided at the Catholic Bishops' Conference on November 14. The Church of England's response will be discussed at the General Synod board of education meeting that week.

The consultation, launched on October 27, is the first step in John Major's often-stated desire to see all schools cut their ties with local councils. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said the aided schools were being targeted because they were already "a short step from self-government".

However the National Governors' Council wrote to Mrs Shephard yesterday complaining about the short period allowed for consulting on the "fast-track" plans.

Jack Morrish, the vice chairman, called for an extension until mid-January, bearing in mind the department's proposals in the summer for all consultations to last at least ten weeks.

Just 1,097 of the 24,000 schools in England and Wales have chosen to opt out of local-authority control since the policy was introduced in September 1988.

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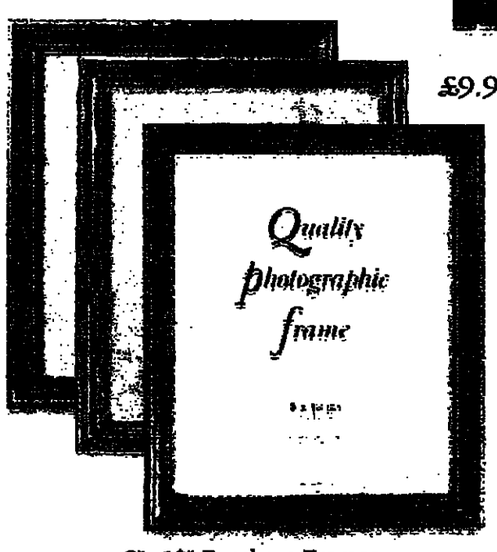
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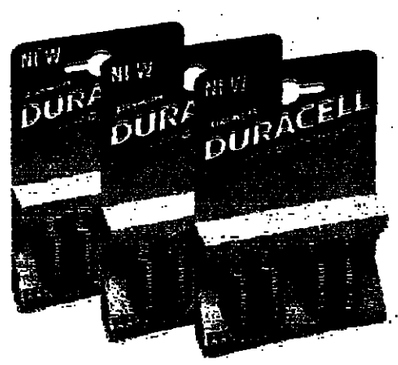
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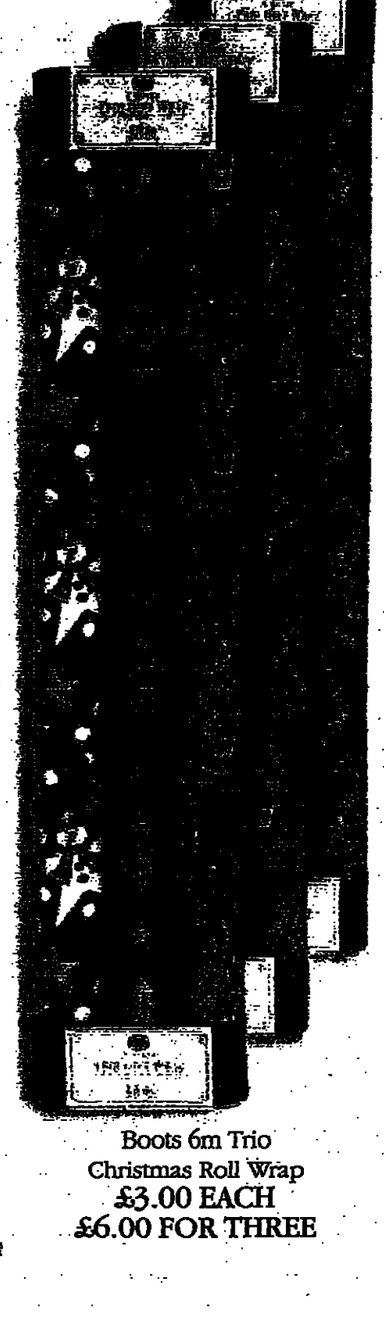
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Preacher of the Year: sermon that won the title with an exposition of Gospel beatitude

It's purity of heart, Jim, but not as we know it

Credo

Barry Overend

You won't know Mrs Wentworth. Or at least not the Mrs Wentworth I'm talking about. But her name cropped up in conversation as I was preparing for this sermon. You see, I didn't just want to look up what St Augustine, John Wesley and Sir Cliff Richard have had to say about my text — "How blest are those whose hearts are pure; they shall see God." I wanted to know what your average Tom, Dick and Mary make of it. So I asked them — just one deceptively simple question. "What does purity of heart mean to you?"

Their answers were mostly predictable. "It means unselfishness." "It means not being hypocritical." "It means always thinking good things." But one response was unexpected. "What does purity of heart mean to you?" I asked this particular chap. And quick as a flash he replied: "Mrs Wentworth!" Now, knowing Mrs Wentworth as I do — an elderly woman of transparent goodness — I knew at once what that man meant. And all of a sudden a somewhat hazy text shifted, at least a little bit, into focus. And purity of heart had a familiar face.

I call it a hazy text because, in the dim and distant past, the original Hebrew concept of purity was inextricably linked with the meticulous observance of religion. But it isn't for us.

Hence the need for what I call a "Mr Spock approach" to this beatitude. Mr Spock, you might remember, was that amiable half-human, half-alien on Captain Kirk's Starship *Enterprise*. Recalling one of his catchphrases, I can imagine him pondering this text and concluding: "It's purity Jim, but not as we know it!" Insofar as we do know it, purity of heart does include all those things that people trotted out in response to my question — being unselfish, not being hypocritical, thinking good thoughts and that almost indefinable something extra the Mrs Wentworths of this world possess.

Many of us will be familiar with John Keble's sung version of this beatitude: "Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God. The secret of the Lord is theirs . . ." The Mrs Wentworths do seem to have been let into a sort of secret. It's the secret of how to wear your successes without arrogance and to bear your failures without resentment; the secret of how to admire without envy, reproach without malice, care without condescending and love without lusting. And, most remarkable of all, it is a secret that enables at least some of the pure in heart to pray without pretence, what *The Book of Common Prayer* describes as neither "dissembling nor cloaking our manifold sins and wickedness".

I have a feeling that the secret of the pure in heart is precisely their refusal — almost their inability — to dissemble and cloak, both their strengths and their weaknesses, so they can accept deserved praise and take justified criticism with equal grace. And when they say "I'm sorry", be it to God or their neighbour, they mean just that and only that. Not, "I'm sorry, but I've been under a lot of pressure at work, and we're having trouble at home with our 14-year-old, and to cap it all the dog had to be put down last week, and you know how it is when it all gets on top of you, you just blow your top." No, none of that dissembling and cloaking, just "I'm sorry".

I have deliberately highlighted that example because it is important to realise that even the pure in heart have reason to say "sorry". Mrs Wentworth isn't perfect. Transparently good she may be, but you can see her faults as well. And her purity of heart isn't obvious to her. For purity of heart is like humility — thinking that you've got it is a sure sign that you haven't. Not even the saints, those Gary Linekers of the Faith whom we particularly recall today, would have claimed purity of heart, though doubtless other people saw it in them.

But what shall the pure in heart themselves see? The beatitude is alarmingly clear on that. They shall see God. I say "alarmingly clear" because, certainly in Old Testament times, seeing God was, at best, a mixed blessing. On the one hand the writer of Psalm 42 longed for such a vision: "When shall I come before the presence of God?" But, on the other hand, when a heavenly being appeared to Minoah and his wife prior to the birth of their son Samson, Minoah — like Private Frazer in *Dad's Army* — exclaimed: "We're all doomed to die because we've seen God!" Fortunately, Mrs Minoah — characteristically less prone to panic — replied: "Don't be daft. If God had us down for the chop, he wouldn't have accepted our burnt offering, would he?" You can just imagine the ensuing snippet of domestic conversation. "Hey, that's right. I never thought of that." "No, well, that's your trouble dear, isn't it? You don't think."

Inasmuch as Minoah did think, he accepted the popular belief that to see God spelt trouble, where "being still in the presence of the Lord", as we sing in Psalm 42, was the rigid calm of the petrified. For, like Mr Spock's interpretation of purity, "seeing God" was a seeing — but not as we know it. It was a vision of such overwhelming holiness that it all but obliterated the viewer. So what the Psalmist desired, most people in those days dreaded. But, even nowadays, we can imbue the word "see" with a sense of dread. There is a world of difference in feeling between lovers standing on the platform, sighing a fond "I'll see you next week", and the head teacher leaving the unruly pupil to stew outside the door with a stern, "I'll see you in a minute". A blessing, albeit put off for a week, is preferable to a threat about to be carried out.

And there is surely something of a blessing deferred in this particular beatitude. For people of varying religious traditions, seeing God has always been regarded as the end of our searching. The ultimate reward. It is the spiritual equivalent of winning the jackpot, though this time that finger pointing down through the cloud that we've all seen on the lottery adverts is more of a hand, beckoning. And the caption suggesting "It could be you" has become the proclamation "It shall be you".



The Rev Barry Overend with the sculpture that he received as a prize, as well as a cheque for £1,000

"What me? Shall I see God? I, the unkind, the ungrateful," as George Herbert put it in seeming disbelief in a famous poem. But that poem is called *Love bade me welcome*. And our good fortune in receiving such a welcome is symbolised not by the crossed fingers of the lottery logo, but by the crossed arms of the Calvary tree. For it is primarily, though not solely, in the living, dying and, Christians would claim, rising of Christ that the pure in heart catch a glimpse of that God whom they are promised full sight of later.

It is a promise to all those whose hearts, like that of George Herbert, are at least pure enough to perceive their own unkindness and ingratitude. For purity of heart can spring as much from a sense of sin as from sanctity. That, thank God, is what puts it in reach of us all. St Peter was never more pure in heart than in that moment when he knew himself to be defiled by a sin that hitherto he could never have imagined himself committing. And when that cock crowed for a second time, and the Lord turned and looked at Peter, there was no cloaking and dissembling in his heart. The weeping was indeed bitter. But the remorse was pure.

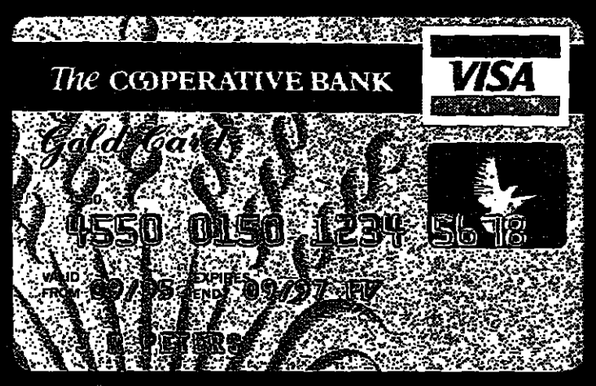
We all have it in us to be pure in heart, if only in our remorse at our impurity. Such was the purity of heart of that tax collector, praying at the back of the temple, who frankly acknowledged his sins before God — a confession that Jesus contrasted so favourably with the front-pew Pharisee's real, but all too self-, righteousness.

We are told that the tax collector would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven. That is because he was peering into the darkness of his own interior, whereas the Pharisee basked only in the brightness of his external self. But seeing ourselves in a shining light obscures, not illuminates, the vision of God. The pure in heart don't shine. They only reflect. They reflect the glory of that God whom one day they shall see.

But you would have a hard job trying to convince Mrs Wentworth of that. For she doesn't believe in God. I once asked her: "Why not?" Her reply was simple: "Because I've never seen him." I wasn't going to, but just in case I was, she added quickly: "And don't say, 'One day you will.'" "No," I said, "but if you do, I'll know why."

□ *The Rev Barry Overend is vicar of St Chad's, Headingley, Leeds, and is winner of* The Times/*College of Preachers Preacher of the Year Award 1995*

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Couple lose appeal over blighted bungalow

A RETIRED colonel lost his latest battle yesterday to force the Department of Transport to buy his home, which has halved in value because of a proposed bypass.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Owen, 65, and his wife Barbara, 64, have fought a two-year campaign against the department's decision in December 1994 not to buy their 1950s retirement bungalow overlooking the River Churn near Baunton, Gloucestershire.

In June last year the Court of Appeal accepted that the house, which the couple spent £100,000 renovating, would be substantially devalued by the planned Cirencester bypass and that their enjoyment of the property would be seriously affected. They ordered the department to reconsider but it ignored the ruling on the basis that the Owens knew about the scheme far enough in advance to decide whether to buy the house.

Yesterday in the High Court Mr Justice Popplewell upheld the Government's conclusion. The judge said: "The courts must refrain from seeking to usurp the functions of the executive. I find no perversity in the Secretary of State's decision."

Valuers estimate that the scheme will halve the £300,000 value of the Owens's home at The White Ways, Cirencester.

Anglicans join sex channel shares sell-off

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England has sold its £3.6 million investment in BSkyB in protest at the satellite station's new soft-porn channel, Playboy TV.

The Church Commissioners said yesterday that the decision had been taken because of the Church's "broad concerns for the maintenance of standards of human dignity" and its belief that pornography "degrades and exploits human beings".

The Methodist Church announced earlier this week that it was selling its £846,000 holding in BSkyB because of the Playboy channel.

Tony Hardy, the Church Commissioners' Stock Exchange investments manager, said: "This action has been taken to give a clear signal that the Church of England does not wish its investment income to benefit through direct investment in companies directly marketing pornography."

The Church was concerned about the size of the channel's potential family audience: more than four million households receive BSkyB and about 25 per cent of children live in homes with cable or satellite television. The commissioners also objected to Playboy TV's marketing campaign, including a poster saying "Morgasms" in big gold letters. The Church's BSkyB shares, bought for about £2.56 each 11 months ago, were sold this week at about £3.73, earning a profit of more than £1 million in less than a year. More than £2 million of the shares were held by the Church Commissioners; the rest were held by the Central Board of Finance, which invests on behalf of parishes and dioceses.

The shares were a small proportion of the Church's total investments of nearly £2 billion. Its ethical investment policy bans direct holdings in companies whose main business is in armaments, gambling, alcohol, tobacco and newspapers.

Playboy TV was set up by Playboy Enterprises, the broadcasting company Flextech and BSkyB — in which News International, parent company of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake. The channel began broadcasting what it calls "quality erotic programming" at midnight on Wednesday. Its signal is encrypted and is available only to subscribers.

BSkyB said: "It is regrettable that any shareholder would take this action but it is their prerogative. The channel is completely legal and has been cleared for broadcast by the appropriate authorities."



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defiled by a sin that hitherto he could never have imagined him self committing. And when the cock crowed for a second time and the Lord turned and looked at Peter, there was no cloaking and dissembling in his heart. The weeping was indeed bitter. But the remorse was pure.

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The Rev. Barry Orchard, vicar of St Chad's, Headingley, Leeds, and columnist of The Times, Colleges of Preacher, Preacher of the Year [illegible]

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on Darias

Festive displays bring renewed hope of lucrative season to shopkeepers battered by recession

Glitter adds early sparkle to bright lights of Christmas

BY EMMA WILKINS

CHRISTMAS has come early this year, with the first festive lights already twinkling in London and more displays due to brighten town centres next week.

Record sums are being spent on the country's main Christmas lights in Blackpool and in Oxford Street and Regent Street, London. Even small towns and villages are celebrating in style: Cockermouth in the Lake District, which received its market town charter in 1241, is festooning its High Street with thousands of reindeer lights and 40ft Christmas trees.

The Oxford Street Association, which represents stores from corner shops to Selfridges, is spending £100,000 on lights as retailers report a brisk upturn in trading this year. The association said that it could afford to spend more on illuminations because membership had swollen from 76 last year to 90. "It could be that the beginning of the end of the recession is in sight," a spokeswoman said.

The clothes chainstore Next has renewed its membership of the association after lapsing several years ago. "Our trading figures are looking particularly good," Richard West, the manager, said. "Back in the late Eighties and early Nineties we weren't doing as well. Now we feel our membership of the association is justified. Shoppers in Oxford Street are out in force. They are spending more money."

The Oxford Street display will be illuminated on Thursday by members of the *Coronation Street* cast. In Regent Street, the retailers' association is investing £250,000 over three years on a display of lights. The theme is crowns and there are 8,300 bulbs. "We are spending a lot as an investment so that it's not such a horrendous cost year on year," a Regent Street spokeswoman said. The lights will be turned on by Brit Ekland, Lionel Blair and other celebrities on November 14.

Gary Glitter switched on the £18,000 lights in St Christopher's Place off Oxford Street last Thursday, 53 days before December 25.

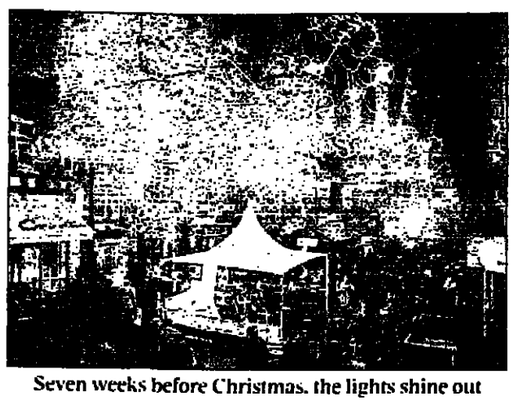
In Belfast, doubt remains over whether President Clinton will turn on the lights on November 30, the day he is due to visit the city. The city and the chamber of trade have an economical view of decorations: the lights are recycled from last year.

In Blackpool, the Christmas illuminations will burst into life on November 30. A concession to traditionalists is a display of the Three Wise Men in an otherwise commercial show. The lights are costing £60,000 — £5,000 more than last year — and will be turned on by Gary Wilmot, the comedy actor who is starring in the musical *Me and My Girl* in Blackpool.

The lights in Scarborough will be turned on by the mayor on November 17. The display is entirely commercial with no religious imagery. In Cheltenham, Father Christmas turns on the lights, which are threaded through the trees, in mid-November.

In Edinburgh, the Lord Provost and a disabled child turn on the lights on November 30. Each year the city welcomes guests from Bergen, Norway, which donates the tree.

In Bristol, David Cassidy, the American singer and actor who is starring in *Blood Brothers* at the Hippodrome, will switch on a traditional display of lights on November 16. The council shares the £100,000 cost with retailers. Carlisle is marking the 250th anniversary of the Jacobite Rebellion. The lights will be turned on by a "Bonnie Prince Charlie" accompanied by 100 pipers on November 17. The prince stayed in Carlisle on his way south in 1745.



Seven weeks before Christmas, the lights shine out

ALAN WELLER



Gary Glitter switches on the Christmas lights at St Christopher's Place in the West End of London

Tribunal awards childminder £450 redundancy

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MOTHER was ordered to compensate her former part-time childminder after deciding she no longer required the woman's services. An industrial tribunal in Glasgow ruled that the childminder was an employee and entitled to redundancy after four years' service.

The childminder, Wilma Haston, 43, had answered an advertisement placed by Flora Keogh, a teacher from Falkirk, to look after her child in the child's own home. Mrs Haston had formerly been a self-employed screenprinter but the tribunal was told the business was "far from successful".

Mrs Haston, from Hallglen, had also looked after Mrs Keogh's second child and was paid £64 a week. During school holidays, or when Mrs Keogh was on maternity leave, Mrs Haston was paid a retainer of half her salary.

In March, Mrs Keogh told Mrs Haston she would shortly be going on maternity leave again for nine months but would be unable to pay Mrs Haston her retainer. She suggested that Mrs Haston find another job and said that she would take her back if possible when she returned to work. Mrs Haston was offered her salary until the end of that month and an ex-gratia payment of £50.

Mrs Keogh told the tribunal that she believed childminders were a self-employed group. Mrs Haston claimed that she had four years' continuous service and that during any periods when she was laid off she received half her normal wage.

In its findings, the tribunal said it was satisfied Mrs Keogh had entered into a contract of employment with Mrs Haston for her to act as a part-time childminder. It was a totally different form of service from that provided by a registered childminder, who took in children from various parents into her own premises, which were licensed for that purpose.

Mrs Haston was obliged to work the hours Mrs Keogh wanted and was subject to the control of Mrs Keogh.

The tribunal decided that Mrs Haston was an employee and had been made redundant. It ruled she should receive a redundancy payment and pay in lieu of notice totalling £448 less the ex-gratia payment of £50.

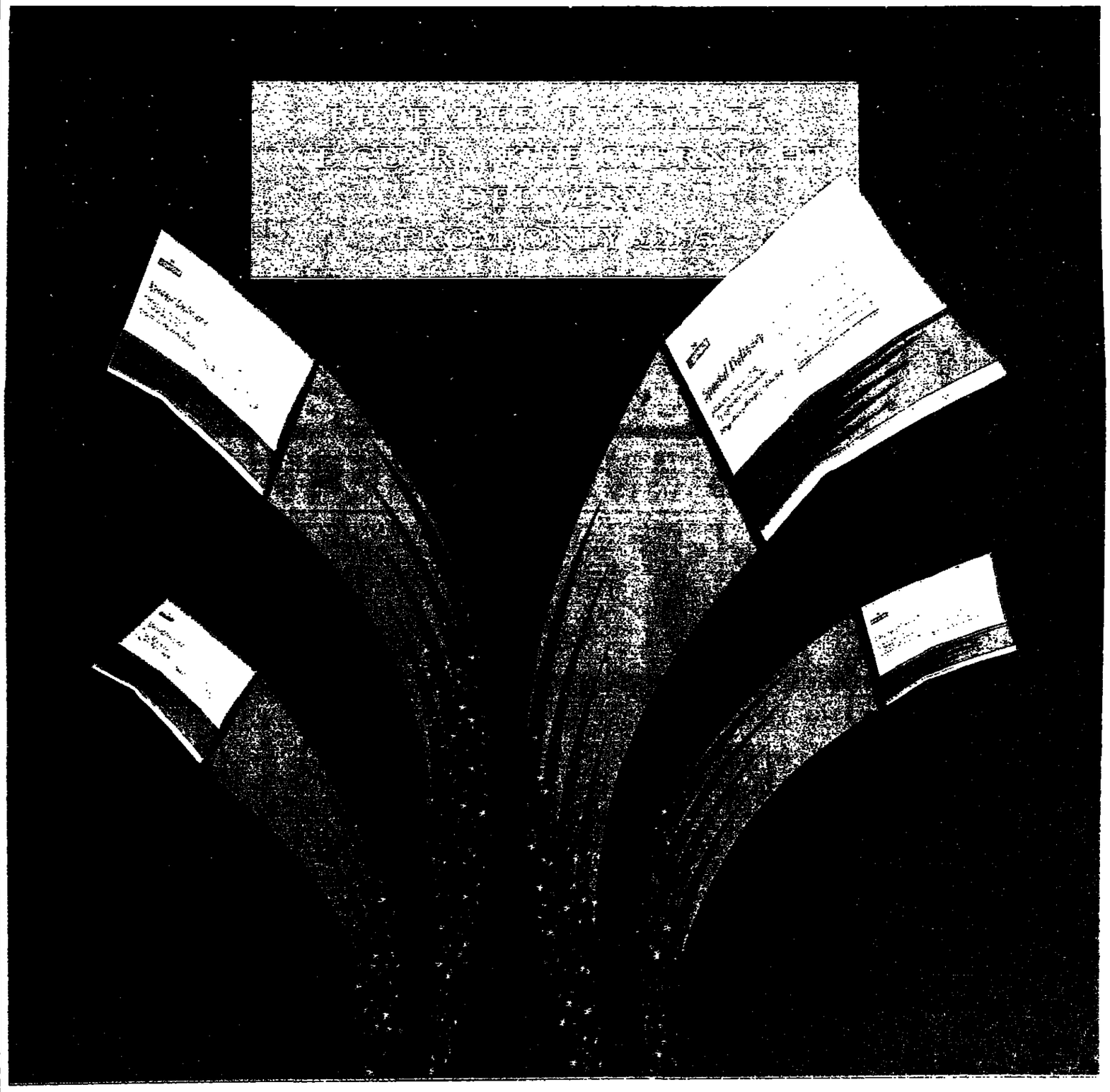
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Extra powers are double-edged sword for Russian Prime Minister

Yeltsin 'heir' faces threat from aides in Kremlin

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE extra powers given to Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, by President Yeltsin yesterday are a double-edged sword, which make him both more powerful and more vulnerable in the run-up to parliamentary elections.

By taking charge of the four "power ministers" responsible for Russia's security and foreign policy, Mr Chernomyrdin has taken one step one nearer to being acting head of state and now stands a much greater chance of being anointed Mr Yeltsin's heir for the presidential elections next summer. However the need for his party, Our Home is Russia, to perform strongly in the parliamentary elections on December 17, is now even more important.

Mr Chernomyrdin is engaged in a discreet war with a group in Mr Yeltsin's administration, clustered around Aleksandr Korzhakov, the President's security chief, who stand to lose everything if Mr Yeltsin steps down and want to see him re-elected at all costs. That means that they may try to damage Mr Chernomyrdin by damaging his party. "The aides around Yeltsin will try to undermine Chernomyrdin. Through orders from the top, through TV," Michael McFaul, a political analyst with the Carnegie Centre in Moscow, said.

The Prime Minister also has the headache of combining his extra responsibilities with the demands of galvanising Our Home is Russia's electoral campaign, which has started poorly. Opinion polls show that it may collect less than 10 per cent of the vote, well behind the front-runner, the Communist Party.

The nationalist movement Derzhava (Great Power), led by Aleksandr Rutskoi, the former Vice President, was re-admitted to the election campaign yesterday when the supreme court overturned a ban on registration imposed by the Central Electoral Commission. The verdict may result in Derzhava splitting the nationalist vote at the cost of other opposition parties.

The court postponed the case of the powerful liberal party Yabloko, led by Grigori Yavlinsky, a reform economist, until today. Yabloko was also banned from registering for the elections for alleged procedural reasons. The party's leaders say the decision was politically inspired.

Mr Yavlinsky said yesterday that the ban on his party was part of a concerted attempt to undermine him before the presidential elections next summer for which he is virtually undisputed as the reformers' candidate. "We are defending the very possibility of a peaceful change of power in Russia," he said.

His comments echo speculation that a hardline Kremlin faction is planning to have the parliamentary elections postponed or cancelled, because of Mr Yeltsin's illness.

Leading article, page 21



President Yeltsin during his meeting with Mr Chernomyrdin in hospital yesterday



Chernomyrdin: guarded

Communist who turned capitalist

HAD Viktor Chernomyrdin, 57, the Russian Prime Minister, been born the other side of the Iron Curtain he might now be heading a privatised utility (Oliver August writes).

He started in the Russian gas industry after a stint in the Red Army in the late 1950s and was a chief engineer in the Orenburg gas plant, becoming an adviser to the Central Committee in 1978.

From there the guarded but ambitious Mr Chernomyrdin made the crossover to politics. During the last seven years of Soviet rule he was First Deputy and then Minister of Gas. Despite his being a card-carrying Communist since 1961, he was one of the first Russians to take an active part in the transition to capitalism.

He became Deputy Prime Minister in 1992 and Prime Minister in 1993.

'White Fox' heads for narrow win in Georgian poll

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN TBILISI

FOR a few moments yesterday, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, could afford to set aside his exhausting re-election campaign and indulge in a nostalgic bout of international diplomacy.

Attending a ceremony in his heavily guarded office to accept the credentials of Stephen Nash, the new British Ambassador to Tbilisi, the former Soviet Foreign Minister shut out the notorious, and often bloody, affairs of his young nation state. Dressed in a double-breasted navy blue suit and holding up a glass of Georgian white wine, the man who helped to bring about the end of the Cold War indulged in diplomatic small-talk about John Major and the City.

Today, however, on the eve of presidential and parliamentary elections, the white-haired former communist will make a final appeal to the electorate, which is expected to vote him back.

"Shevardnadze will win, but the campaign will be tense right to the end," said Alexander Rondeli, the head of international relations at Georgia's state university. "The polls show he is still leading, but the opposition is looking strong in certain regions. Nothing should be taken for granted."

That the Georgian leader, dubbed the "White Fox" by his people, is ahead in the polls is no small achievement for a head of state who has presided over a civil war, two bloody separatist conflicts and the virtual collapse of the economy, all in a space of four turbulent years. If Georgians needed reminding about the trials they have endured, then Jumber Patiashvili, the republic's former communist chief and today Mr Shevardnadze's main challenger for the presidency, is there to make sure they remember.

"This administration is bankrupt," said the tough former Soviet boss, who looked visibly shaken after a group of his supporters was dispersed by mysterious gunfire outside the capital yesterday. "They promise privatisation but then they sell off healthcare. They promised to stabilise the economy, but the result is we are all paupers. They promise free elections, and then intimidate us when we campaign."

His message has hit home among older Georgians, who remember the time when this Caucasus Republic enjoyed a privileged status. Today the country is one of the poorest with pensioners and the unemployed forced to scrape by on meagre state handouts.

Nevertheless, a majority still regard Mr Shevardnadze as the most honest leader and the man best placed to navigate the country out of its troubles. A straw poll taken in Tbilisi's main market, which attracts traders from across the country, showed widespread support for the veteran leader.

"You can say what you like about him," said Deneri Giunashvili, a fruit seller. "But he has restored law and order and chased out the criminals. The economy is coming right finally."

Another old Tbilisi resident said: "Without Shevardnadze in power this country would slip back into conflict and chaos. I will not only be voting for him but praying that he survives in office."

Share scandal hits campaign

BY ROGER BOYES

INSIDER share dealing by a network of former Communists, dubbed the Red Spiders' Web, yesterday unhinged the election campaign of Aleksander Kwasniewski, President Walesa's main rival.

First round voting in the presidential election is tomorrow, with Mr Kwasniewski, a former Communist minister, and Mr Walesa leading the field of 13 candidates. If nobody wins a clear 50 per cent of votes, there will be a run-off in two weeks between the two who poll the most votes.

But the share scandal may well have revived the chances of Jacek Kuron, a former dissident who is also a candidate. Opinion polls give him only about 8 per cent of the vote compared to 32 per cent for Mr Kwasniewski and 29 per cent for Mr Walesa, but he regularly comes out top of popularity and confidence polls.

Many voters who lean to the Left may well switch their votes from Mr Kwasniewski to Mr Kuron as a result of the financial affair.

Press reports said Mr Kwasniewski and other former Communists have been buying shares in Polisa, Poland's fourth largest insurance company, at preferential rates before a stock exchange floration.

Roger Boyes is the author of The Naked President: A Life of Lech Walesa (Secker)



Kwasniewski: comes out top in opinion polls

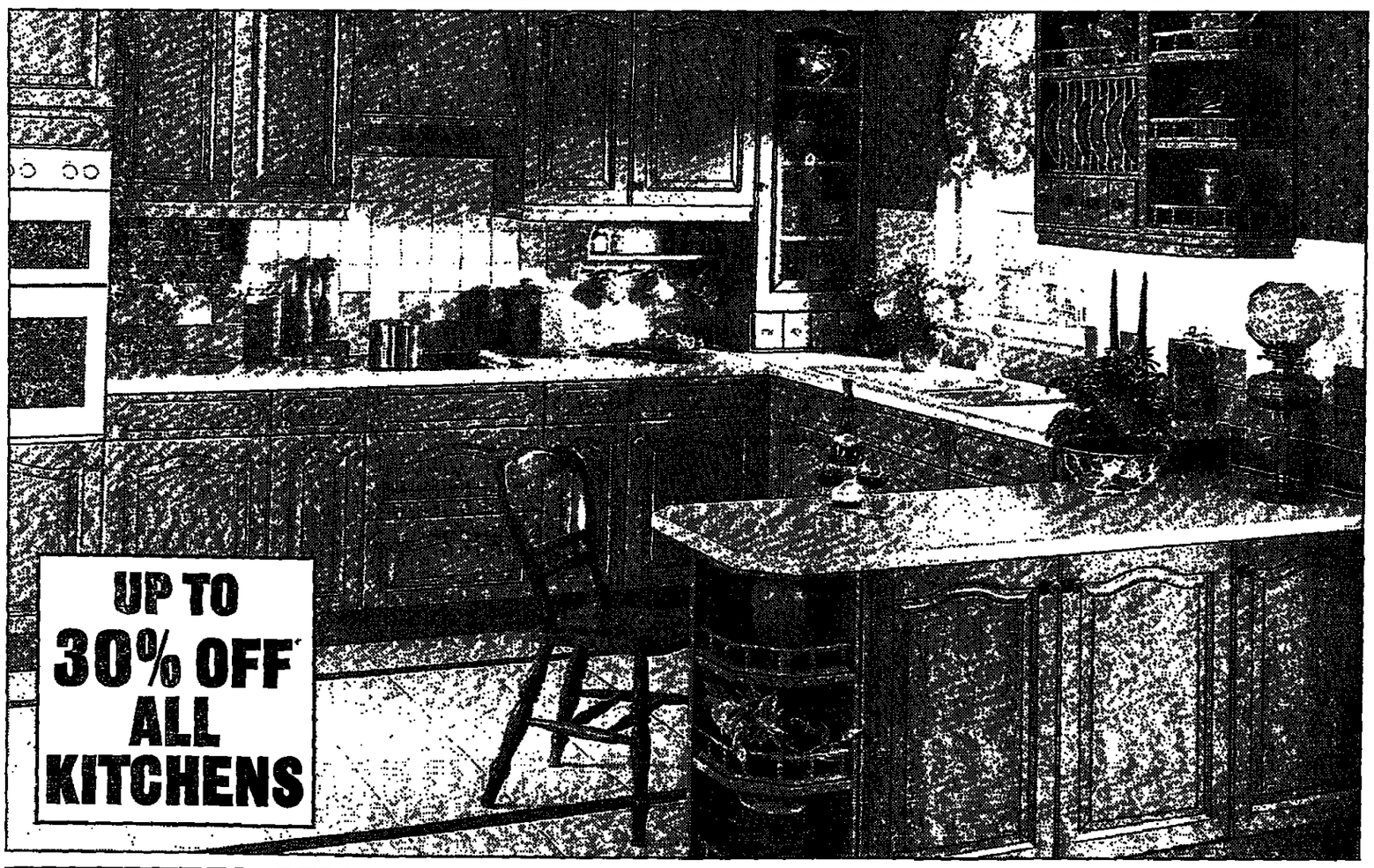
Human rights in Estonia criticised

Geneva: The United Nations Human Rights Commission yesterday criticised Estonia for its treatment of ethnic Russians, who make up about 30 per cent of the Baltic state's population. The commission examined the issue during its three-week autumn session.

The panel said that the ethnic Russians were prevented from becoming Estonian citizens by a mass of legal obstacles and the demand that they speak the language, which is notoriously difficult to learn. *(AFP)*

☐ **Government backed:** President Meri, approved the new Government of Tiit Vaehi, the Prime Minister, saying the state now needed political unity to fight forces in Russia which want to restore the old Soviet Union. *(Reuter)*

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RICHARD BEESTON IN TBILISI

Argentina to send ex-Nazi for war crime trial in Italy

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THE Argentine Supreme Court ruled yesterday that Erich Priebke, 82, a former Gestapo captain, be extradited to Italy where he will be tried on charges of overseeing the massacre of 335 civilians outside Rome in 1944. He is believed to have shot some alleged victims in the back of the neck as he forced them to walk over corpses into caves.

The court's decision comes after 17 months of legal wrangling and attempts by Herr Priebke's lawyers to stall the extradition process. "We welcome this ruling. It brings to an end painful and exhaustive efforts to get this man tried for his horrific crimes," said an Italian embassy spokesman in Buenos Aires.

An Argentine judge ordered the extradition four months ago, but in August an appeal court quashed that ruling. Yesterday's decision, however, cannot be appealed against.

Argentine authorities have ordered that Herr Priebke be delivered from the skiing resort of San Carlos de Bariloche, where he has been under house arrest, to Buenos Aires where Italian officials are waiting to take him into custody. Military prosecutors in Rome said yesterday that they were stepping up preparations so they can try Herr Priebke as quickly as possible after his arrival in Italy.

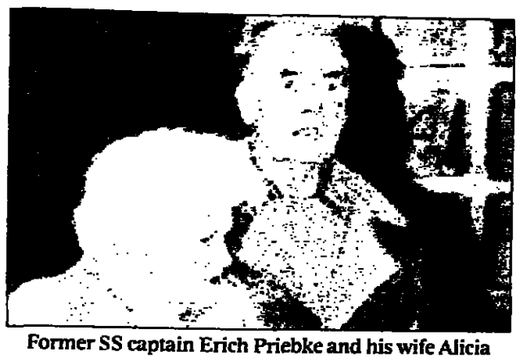
The Supreme Court's decision comes after President Menem said he would speed up procedures after international criticism. Señor Menem is keen to shake off his country's image as a Nazi haven. Dozens of Nazis took refuge in Argentina after the war, when the Perón Government was openly sympathetic to Hitler. Herr Priebke arrived, like many, on a Red Cross passport issued by the Vatican and set up a new life.

He ran a delicatessen in Bariloche where he lived with his wife and two sons in a tight-knit community of German immigrants. On retiring, he became the governor of the biggest local school. Two years ago, an American television crew, looking for another Nazi, came across him by accident.

Herr Priebke was second in command of the Gestapo in Rome in 1944 when a reprisal killing was ordered over the shooting of German soldiers by partisans. He drew up the list of partisans, Jews and petty thieves earmarked for execution in what became known as the Ardeatine caves massacre.

He has always admitted to his crimes. "I killed communists and Jews because I was ordered to and I am proud of what I did," he said in a recent interview with *The Times*. "Damn, once again," he said, raising his voice. "It was a war. I have no regrets."

Yesterday, hundreds of Priebke sympathisers gathered in Bariloche's central square to protest against the extradition.



Former SS captain Erich Priebke and his wife Alicia

Ammunition blast razes town

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI

AN EXPLOSION at an Argentine army ammunition factory yesterday flattened a town 40 miles south of Córdoba. Rio Tercero, home to 50,000 people, was "completely swallowed up" as if consumed by a fireball, a rescue worker said last night.

At least three people were killed and 200 injured. Homes more than two miles away were destroyed by flying, burning ammunition, and continuing explosions prevented rescue squads from entering the town four hours after the blast. Television pictures showed empty streets littered with metal and concrete.

"There was flying shrapnel everywhere. It is impossible to know how many people have died under the rubble," said Oscar Camillión, the Defence Minister, who flew to the scene. More than 600 workers, most of them civilians, were inside the factory at the time of the explosion. Rescue workers began evacuating people from the stricken area to Córdoba.

The cause of what is thought to have been an accident inside the ammunition factory could not be immediately ascertained. But in recent months the military has faced repeated criticism for its poor security measures in its ammunition depots, and factories which have not been updated for decades.

The army said it feared an underground heavy explosives store might still explode. "What exploded were bullets and grenades. There is a danger that the heavy weaponry might explode," the Córdoba chief of staff of the army's Third Corps said.

Species fighting back in survival struggle

Pandas discard their sleepy reserve

BY JAMES PRINGLE AT WOLONG NATURE RESERVE

AN UNFAMILIAR kind of bark or bleat signals the arrival of the wild pandas. The sound comes at first from the steep pine and fern-covered hillside — wreathed in mists like a traditional Chinese painting — beyond the panda conservation and research centre here on the cool slopes of the Qionglai mountains.

All at once, a metal flap in the high wall that surrounds the centre is pushed open. A snout, then a woolly, chubby face pushes through. The black-ringed eyes of a panda look round quizzically.

"There are two wild pandas that come down to the wall most days looking for a bit of variety to their diet and some companionship," said Zhang Guiquan, one of 17 Chinese scientists here. "This one is Dadi, a three-year-old male," he adds.

Chinese staff members climb to the top of the 20ft high, white-washed wall and see both Dadi and an older female that has little to do with the energetic younger male. Now crunching up bamboo shoots growing outside the wall, Dadi leans forward to drink some water and stare at his reflection, then rises and moves off with a peculiar staggering gait, like a drunk.

About the last thing the traveller expects to see at Wolong's 1,200 sq mile nature reserve is an endangered panda in the wild. Foreign naturalists in Peking familiar with panda habitats are incredulous when told about it — in the past the sight of panda droppings after weeks trudging through bamboo groves was something to celebrate, they say.

A visit to the station here reveals some encouraging facts about the panda's struggle for survival. One is that Chinese scientists appear at last to be having some success in breeding pandas in captivity and 44 have now been raised throughout China in the past decade. Another is that the 24 animals in the breeding centre are bright-eyed lively creatures who seem to be enjoying life even behind bars. Here, the panda is revealed as an animal with a personality of its own, which while spending a good part of the day eating arrow and umbrella bamboo nevertheless does not waste much time on sleep.

"They are higher mammals, probably highly specialised members of the bear family, though some people link them to raccoons, and they are no less intelligent than a household cat," said one foreign expert in Peking.

"We have found out a lot of new things about pandas in the past year or two," said Zhang Hemin, director of the centre, sitting at his desk which displays the intertwined flags of China and the Communist Party. "They are sociable, not solitary, animals and even mating is not quite as difficult as previously thought."

Females, it turns out, are not quite as fickle as hitherto believed but they are still hard to please. Mr Zhang once witnessed six males fighting over a female — and she seemed to encourage them.

Pandas in the wild may not now be quite as threatened as earlier thought. While the Chinese say 1,000 exist, foreign experts believe there may be as many as 1,500.



A panda at the Chinese nature reserve. Even behind bars "they seem to enjoy life"

> "Females in the wild are not so fickle as we thought, but they are just as hard to please"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tribunal demands surrender of Mladic

Washington: The United Nations tribunal investigating war crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina has demanded the surrender of two Bosnian Serb leaders, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, as a condition of any peace agreement reached at the talks in Dayton, Ohio (Ian Brodie writes).

America has not agreed, but it has dictated that both men must be removed from positions of power or command before any Nato peacekeeping forces can be dispatched.

"We think they have no place in this endeavour," Warren Christopher, US Secretary of State, said.

Writer cleared

Ankara: An Istanbul court has acquitted a journalist previously found guilty of "separatist propaganda", in the first backdated ruling after anti-terror law changes, Anatolian news agency said. *(Reuter)*

Aids 'genocide'

Los Angeles: One in three black Americans believes that Aids was created by whites with blacks as targets as a form of "genocide". The study interviewed 1,054 church members in five cities.

Cypriot torture

Nicosia: A government-appointed inquiry in Cyprus has found that Limassol police tortured 11 detainees in treatment "reminiscent of the Middle Ages with Holy Inquisition methods". *(Reuter)*

Vatican funds

Los Angeles: A 17lb crimson silk-bound Bible, selling for £256, is one of several Renaissance illuminated manuscripts for which the Vatican Library has sold reproduction rights to raise funds.

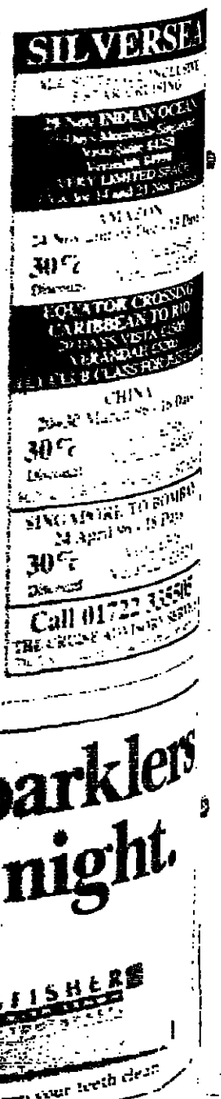
Due respect

Singapore: Parliament passed a law under which Singaporeans who refuse to help to support their aged and poor parents could be forced by tribunals to pay them monthly allowances. *(AP)*

re scandal campaign

By Reuter Staff

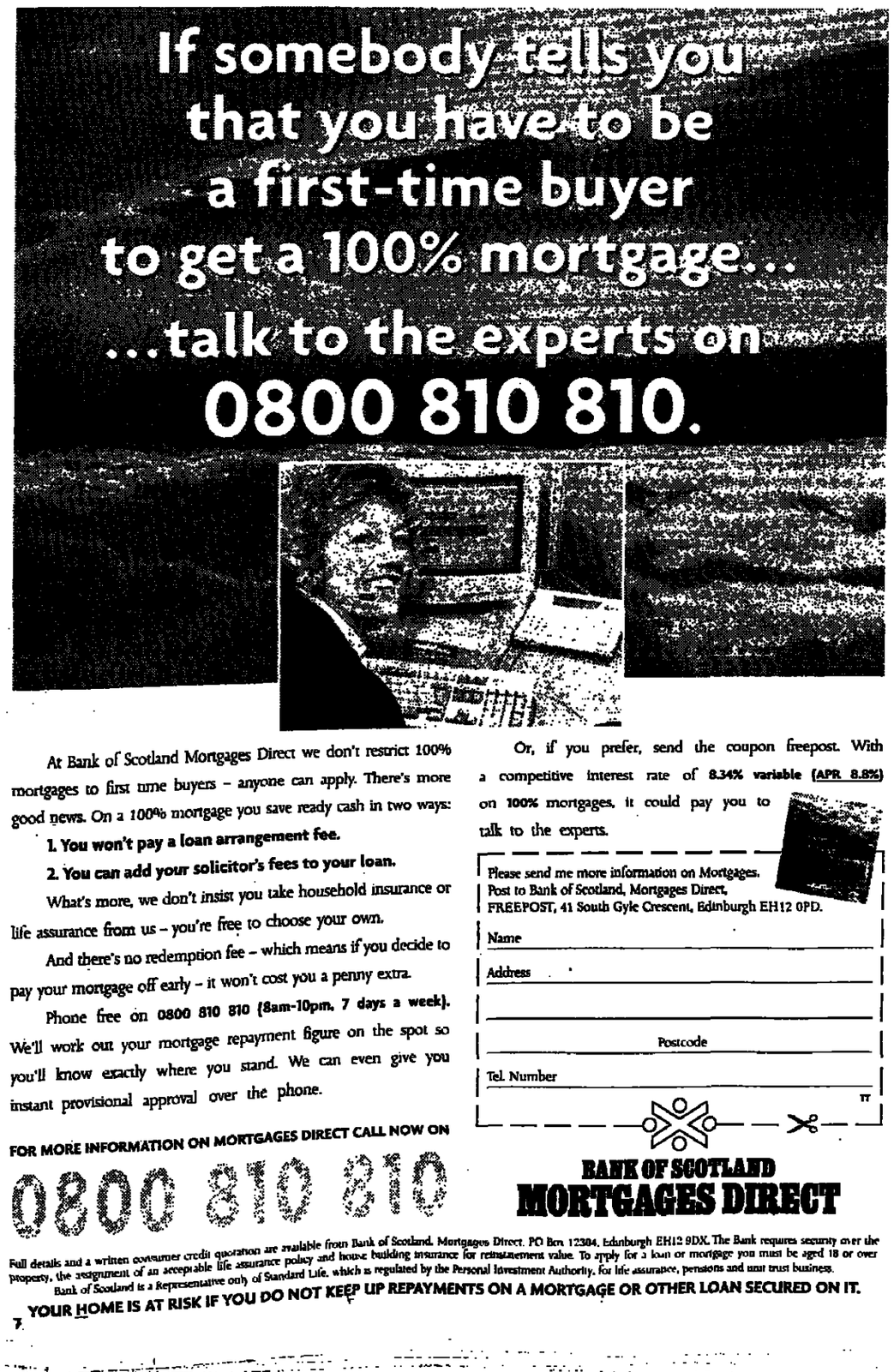




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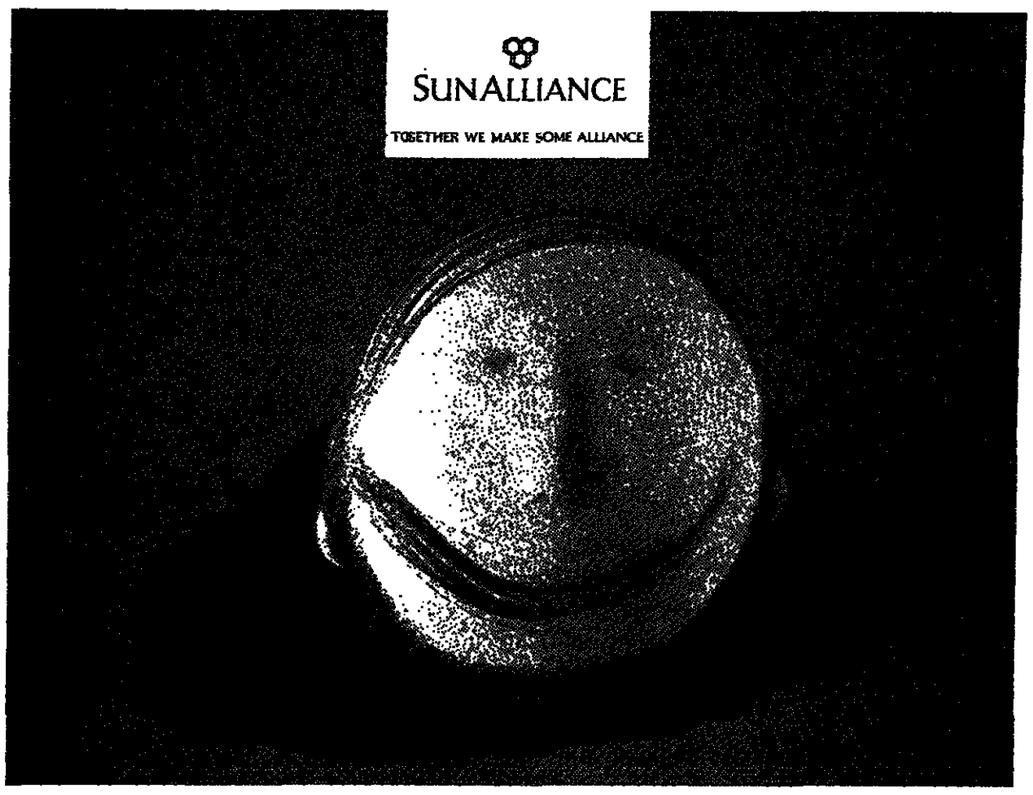
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Queen signs £70m apology to Maoris



The Queen gives her assent to the Bill

FROM MICHAEL MUNRO IN WELLINGTON

THE QUEEN yesterday cleared the way for a compensation package to dispossessed Maori tribes when she signed legislation containing a Crown apology for the actions of British colonists in New Zealand 132 years ago.

In a brief, emotion-charged ceremony at Government House in Wellington, the Queen gave the Royal assent to the Waikato Tainui Raupatu Claims Settlement Bill that gives effect to a $NZ170 million (£70 million) package for the Tainui federation of tribes in the fertile Waikato region, south of Auckland.

Maori women sang a prayer of welcome to the Queen and she was presented with a greenstone mere (warrior's club) before the ceremony. The Queen did not speak as she formalised the settlement by signing three copies of the legislation.

Under the new law, 38,000 acres of land will be returned to the tribes over five years — about a third of what was confiscated — and the tribes will be given a £26 million land purchase fund.

A government spokesman said that the first instalment of "several million dollars" would be paid shortly. Much of the land being returned to the Maori tribes was used for defence installations, power stations and mines.

Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, described the ceremony as a great occasion and said he was proud to be associated with it. The apology was deserved, he added, given the history of the Tainui tribes.

The Queen's signature had huge symbolic importance for Maoris because she rarely gives Royal assent to New Zealand Bills in person. The Prime Minister saw the symbolism as more important than the signing: "It signals the resolution of a long-standing grievance and, as it were, putting forward the chance of a much better future. I felt a great sense of history in the room."

The 400-word apology acknowledges that the Crown's representatives acted unjustly in ordering an invasion of the Waikato in 1863 and in labelling the Maoris as rebels. The Crown expresses its "profound regret and apologies unreservedly" for the loss of lives and the confiscation of property.

About one million acres of Tainui land were seized to punish Maoris and secure a farming hinterland for Auckland after the 1863-64 Waikato War during which thousands of Imperial troops and local militia fought to impose British sovereignty.

Waea Murray, a Tainui elder, said yesterday there was a huge sense of achievement among his people: "We see this as the end of an old era and the beginning of a new."

Buckingham Palace and government spokesmen have emphasised, however, that yesterday's apology was not a personal one by the Queen.

Hare Puke, the chairman of the Tainui Trust Board, said the tribes did not expect one. "We believe that she is a gracious lady and she is following the process of the monarchy, and we are grateful at this time that she has given her stamp of dignity," he told New Zealand radio.

The Tainui claim is just one of hundreds that have been lodged with the Wellinton Government by Maori tribes seeking redress for land and other grievances.

Leading article, page 21

A starry wink from space 7,000 years ago

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN WASHINGTON

THE Hubble Space Telescope has taken unprecedented snapshots of newborn stars peering out of immense gas clouds some 7,000 light years from Earth.

The photographs of the Eagle Nebula, taken by the orbiting telescope on April 1, were shown to reporters by Jeff Hester, who said his team from Arizona State University was amazed at their findings. The snapshots show three dark towers of gas dimly lit by some 50 stars caught in the act of winking on.

The birth of the stars in the nebula also known as M16 took place some 7,000 years ago, since distance in light years is equivalent to calendar years. The stars formed within dense fingers of hydrogen extending from the towers, which scientists have fancifully dubbed EGGs, for evaporating gaseous globules. The gas is so compressed that it collapses under its own weight, giving rise to the star-making nuclear fusion process. The stars then grow in size as they absorb increasing amounts of surrounding gas.

The Hubble project is a joint programme of Nasa and the European Space Agency.



Stars are hatched from three interstellar gas pockets at the end of vast tubes called "elephant trunks"

Chernobyl closure faces delay

Kiev: Ukraine could postpone a promised closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station by the end of the century unless the West provides more money more quickly, the country's top negotiator on the issue said.

"We have proposed to our partners to leave unfixed the date of Chernobyl's closure," Yuri Kostenko, the Environment Minister, said after two days of talks with Western experts. "Existing financial resources in the form of grants are clearly insufficient to start work on closing down Chernobyl." *(Reuter)*

Petition rejected

Dar es Salaam: Tanzania's High Court has rejected an Opposition petition to bar the publication of results from parliamentary and presidential polls, which the Opposition says were rigged. *(Reuter)*

Korean threat

Seoul: North Korea has threatened to halt efforts to find the remains of American soldiers missing from the Korean War unless it is paid £2.2 million in expenses incurred in past repatriations. *(AP)*

Cash offer

Tokyo: The US military has asked defence lawyers for three servicemen, who go on trial on Tuesday accused of raping a 12-year-old girl on Okinawa, to consider offering compensation. *(AP)*

ANC leads

Johannesburg: The African National Congress so far has won 67 per cent of the vote in local elections. The National Party was its strongest opposition with 23.2 per cent, state radio said. *(Reuter)*

Tamil Tigers flee Jaffna as dream of homeland fades

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

THE Tamil Tigers, besieged by the Sri Lankan Army, announced last night that they were quitting Jaffna. Soon it will be a ghost town.

Its people are moving away from the advancing troops towards a rural no man's land to the east, where there is nowhere to sleep except on the ground. The population, until recently 200,000, is down to a quarter of that.

The old and sick are staying on. So, probably, is a nucleus of Tigers to ensure that the armed forces pay heavily for their victory. The rebels said they would move east to another area on the Jaffna peninsula, abandoning the shattered town that has been the centre of their operations for five years.

With their unofficial independent state of Eelam in ruins, the rebels will revert to doing what made them famous: hit-and-run guerrilla warfare. They are pressing people into uniform because of dwindling recruitment, a sign of demoralisation and a growing conviction among ordinary Tamils in Jaffna that hopes of establishing a sustainable homeland are dead.

Many Tamils are being rounded up for questioning in Colombo and elsewhere in the search for Tigers who might be on bombing missions to avenge the loss of their de facto homeland. However, old patterns of torture, beatings and extra-judicial killings are not being repeated. Police and troops have been warned not to sully military victories with human rights abuses.

The Government says people should return home once troops have secured the area. While Colombo draws unaccustomed international approval for its military conduct, the Tigers have lost much of their international goodwill. Canada, one of their most important fund-raising centres, long ago declared them a terrorist organisation.

Colombo: Tamil Tiger guerrillas hacked to death five Sinhalese children in southeast Sri Lanka yesterday. The children were killed after the guerrillas attacked a hamlet before dawn. All schools across the country have been closed indefinitely. *(AFP)*

Charity buys slaves' freedom in Sudan

BY OLIVER AUGUST

A BRITISH charity working in Sudan is buying back Christian slaves kidnapped by Arab militias and forced to become Muslims.

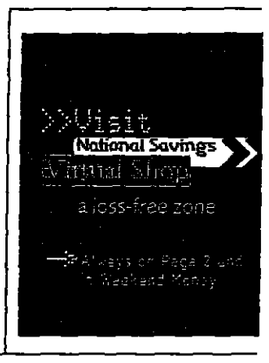
A team from Christian Solidarity International (CSI) went to Sudan and spent £10,000 to free 22 children and young women. The charity agreed with local leaders in Nyamlell, southern Sudan, to buy five cows for every slave and use these as payment.

Baroness Caroline Cox, a member of the CSI team, said: "I just couldn't leave these people behind knowing we could have helped them."

Tens of thousands of black Christian Sudanese in the south of the country have been abducted by gangs of soldiers, who sell them as slaves to Muslims in the north. According to Baroness Cox, the enslaved children and young women are forced to do house and agricultural work as well as provide sexual services. They are generally given Muslim names and forced to observe Islamic rituals.

The boys are said to be forced to attend Koran lessons and militia camps where they are trained to wage war on their own people.

Since 1989, the Christians have been fighting President al-Bashir, who has been accused of involvement in an assassination attempt against President Mubarak of Egypt in Khartoum this year. Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, visited southern Sudan last year to lend support to the embattled Christian community.



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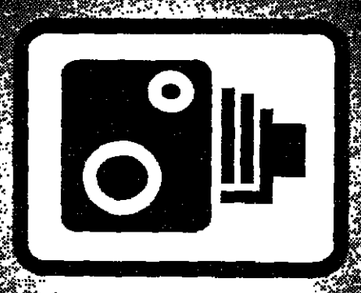
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هكذا من الاصل

200,000 Filipinos seek to flee fury of deadly Angela in country's worst battering

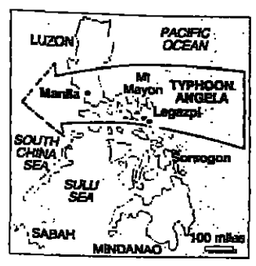
Super-typhoon kills 66 in howling trail of mass destruction

FROM ALISTAIR MCINTOSH IN MANILA

THE most powerful typhoon to hit the Philippines for years howled across the country yesterday, killing 66 people, sending more than 200,000 fleeing from their homes and leaving millions without power.

"This is the worst beating we have ever had," said Severo Alcantara, the Governor of Catanduanes, before all communications with the island province, bar ham-radio links, were cut. Catanduanes, 220 miles east of Manila, the capital, was the first area to feel the fury of Angela, described by weathermen as a "super-typhoon" because of its size and power.

Up to 500 miles in diameter and with winds initially gusting up to 155mph, Angela then scythed across the southern part of Luzon, the most prosperous and heavily populated island in the nation of 65 million people. Its outer fringes began to hit Catanduanes on Thursday night and its eye passed south of Manila by 11.30am yesterday, although its huge size meant that its force was felt for several hours.



At least ten people died when volcanic debris loosened by rain thundered down the flanks of Mount Mayon near Legazpi, the main city of the worst-hit Bicol region. Thousands of traditional Filipino wood and palm-thatch homes were destroyed. Initial estimates put damage to property and crops, such as rice and coconuts, at more than 1.2 billion pesos (£30 million).

"We have no food. We may die of starvation here," Raul Lee, the Governor of Sorsogon province in the Bicol region, told a Manila radio station. "All of our crops have been destroyed. We are asking the Government in Manila to please send us 200 sacks of rice. We have never seen a typhoon like this."

President Ramos, taking personal charge of relief efforts in Manila, said: "Saving lives and reducing damage is the main event at this time." More than 200,000 people, including 20,000 in the capital, fled for their lives and crowded into evacuation centres in schools, churches and, in at least one case, a shopping mall. The normally congested city turned into a ghost town as its 8.5 million people cowered indoors. In the deserted business district of Makati, the wind set up an eerie shrieking noise as it pounded high-rise buildings.

Angela is the worst cyclone to strike the Philippines, battered by an average 20 storms a year, since Typhoon Nina killed 1,000 people in 1987. It struck less than a week after Typhoon Zack killed more than 160 people in the central Philippines. Manila airport was closed for most of yesterday. Weather forecasters said that, by the time Angela had left the Philippines, heading towards Vietnam, it had reached a top wind speed of 106mph. *(Reuter)*



Philippine fishermen watch helplessly from a sea wall yesterday as their boat is sunk by Typhoon Angela

Missing 'boy' clue to chaos

BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

THE devastation caused by Typhoon Angela could be linked to the disappearance of the El Niño southern oscillation, a cyclical shift in the temperatures of the central Pacific Ocean.

This year, sea surface temperatures have cooled towards normal, ending an El Niño event that has lasted for several years. But records show that hurricanes and typhoons are more common in years when the El Niño — "the Boy Child" so named by Peruvian fishermen who benefit with booming catches — cannot be detected.

Given a long run of typhoons, some are bound to be more powerful than others — just as waves falling on a sea shore vary in intensity. While Angela reached wind speeds high enough to do enormous damage, it was by no means a record. That is held by Joan, which struck in October 1970, and killed 2,361 people in the Philippines.

UN rights pledge on Hong Kong reports

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

THE United Nations Human Rights Committee is to continue to report on rights in Hong Kong after the colony reverts to Chinese rule, brushing aside Peking's objections that it is not bound by a key international convention.

The committee, which has just concluded its fourth regular review of human rights in Hong Kong, said in its final report yesterday that the Joint Declaration on the colony's future obliged the Chinese to carry on accounting to the UN body for the respect of civil liberties there after 1997.

China has not signed the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights. Talks between Britain and Peking on Thursday remained deadlocked.

Francisco José Aguilar Urbina, the chairman, called on Britain to report to the UN next year. He said he hoped to gain a better idea then on the steps to be taken to guarantee civil liberties. He also welcomed the prospect of Chinese participation.

Hong Kong's legal framework was also criticised because two-thirds of the Legislative Council's members are not democratically elected.

Suspected car bomb accomplice arrested

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN police in the Gaza Strip announced yesterday that they had arrested a man suspected of buying the two cars used in Thursday's twin suicide bomb attacks in which the two bombers died and 11 Israelis were hurt.

The bombings were ordered in revenge for the assassination in Malta of the Islamic Jihad founder, Fathi Shqaqi, by Israeli Mossad agents.

The speed of the arrest, made according to Major-General Abdel-Razeq Majaida, the police commander, late on Thursday night, came as the Israeli Government was putting heavy pressure on Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority leader, to take tougher action against Islamic terrorists in Gaza.

Israeli leaders have given warning that the programme to pull back troops from the West Bank's main Arab towns will be halted unless there is a harsher crackdown on Islamic hardliners determined to wreck the peace process.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said he expected "more efficient activity" to prevent attacks from being launched from areas under Palestinian police control.

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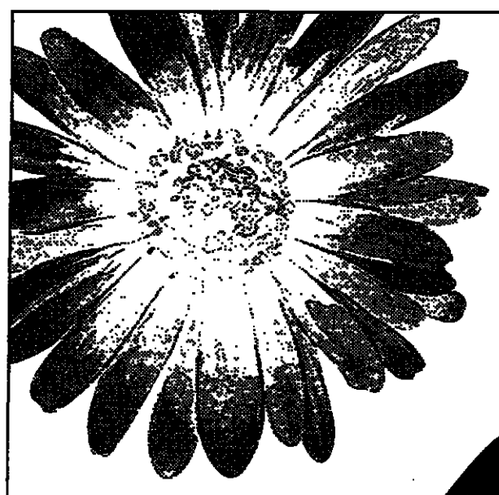
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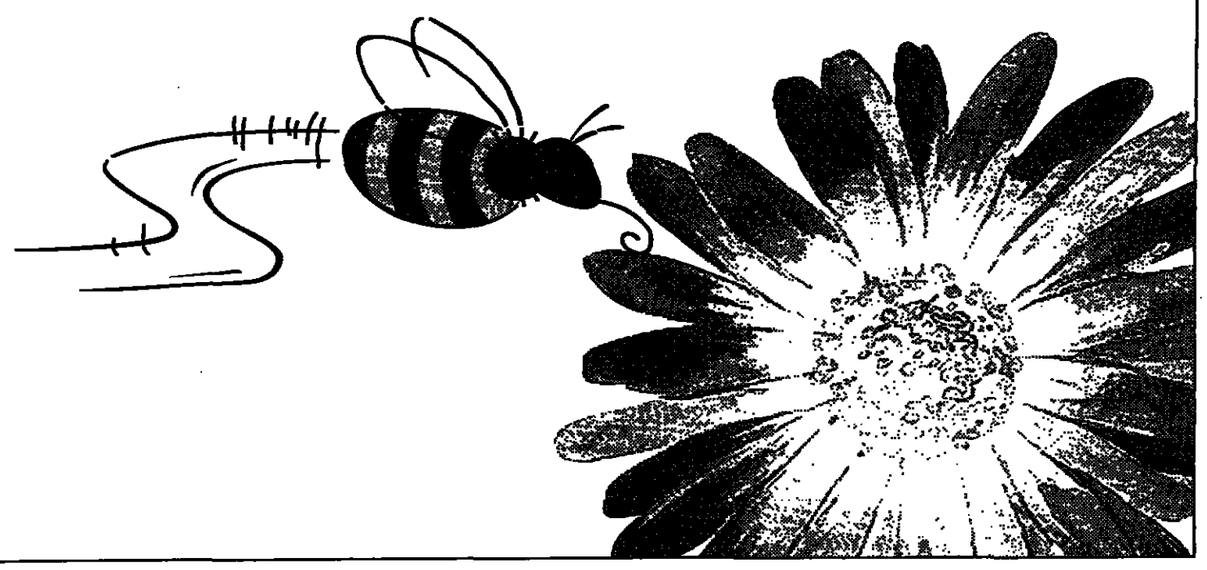
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French President's 30-year-old Cabinet protégé is tipped for top post in expected reshuffle

Youthful face of Chirac rule has eye on power

PARIS FILE
by BEN MACINTYRE



FRANÇOIS BAROIN is surely the only French Cabinet minister with a taste for punk rock. For M Baroin, in addition to being spokesman for the Government, a secretary of state, and mayor of a large city, is just 30 years old.

The youngest minister in the history of the Fifth Republic, his is the youthful voice of the Chirac regime: when France explodes a nuclear device it is M Baroin, fresh-faced and bespectacled, who must announce the fact to the world and defend the ancient might and majesty of the French state. The only comparable example of French political precocity goes back half a century. In 1944, Charles de Gaulle included in his provisional council an ambitious 28-year-old in charge of prisoners of war. His name was François Mitterrand.

The comparison is a telling one, for political insiders predict that M Baroin is destined for yet greater things. "This is an apprentice posting." President Chirac told his young protégé on appointing him as spokesman, a job that carries immense clout as well as ministerial responsibility. For weeks there have been rumours of an imminent Cabinet reshuffle and M Baroin is being tipped as likely to be awarded a top post, possibly and most predictably Minister for Youth and Sport.

Three years ago M Baroin was an undistinguished television reporter, but firmly plugged into France's political elite. His father, Michel, Masonic Grand Master, prominent businessman, politician and close friend of the Chiracs, was killed in a plane crash in 1987.

M Chirac stepped in to become, in effect, the young François's adoptive father. "He told me he would always have a half hour for me, whenever I needed it," recalls M Baroin, but the future President provided him with rather more than that.

Aged 28, M Baroin was elected to parliament. He was brought into the Chirac presidential campaign as spokesman, and retained the job after the election in May this year. M Baroin's government post meant that he had to give up his seat in parliament, but in June he was elected Mayor of Troyes, in northern France, three days before his 30th birthday. Since then he has shown himself adept at presenting the government line, while also appearing as a heart-throb on the cover of teenage magazines. The Chirac Government, battered by a series of corruption scandals, badly needs to show a new face to an angry electorate, and none could be newer than that of M Baroin. The preppy and guileless looks of the government spokesman should deceive no one, for, as one Cabinet minister recently remarked, "behind his smile, there is a blade of steel". While the Government's favourite young Turk may have time on his side, he also has power firmly on his mind.

MICHÉLINE PELLETIER/SYGMA



François Baroin, the French government spokesman and teenage heart-throb

20,000 Leagues is too far down

A THIRD of the French population regularly takes tranquillisers, anti-depressants, sleeping pills or some other mood-altering drug, according to a recent survey.

However, the French are likely to be less happy to see their great works of literature artificially cheered up. Jules Verne's gloomy anti-hero, Captain Nemo, is apparently too depressing for American audiences, so Steven Spielberg, the Hollywood director, has commissioned a script for a "prequel" to Verne's classic 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, in which the grumpy submariner is all sweetness and light.

"We are changing our initial script from dark to light because the studio does not want to spend $60 or $70 million immersing an audience in tragedy," a scriptwriter said.

Le Pen Jr rallies to immigrant

JEAN-MARIE LE PEN, the leader of the far-right National Front who wants foreigners repatriated, discovered this week that his daughter has been fighting to stop the expulsion of an Algerian immigrant.

Marine Le Pen, a lawyer who stood for the National Front in the 1993 parliamentary elections, has taken up the case of Nourredine Hamidi, a 44-year-old Algerian who has lived in France since the age of one but who faces expulsion for a robbery committed in his youth. Mme Le Pen says that M Hamidi's case is special and insists that she and her father still see eye to eye on immigration.

Providing further proof of the huge difference between generations, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has appointed as his co-ordinator of Franco-German co-operation Manfred Rommel — whose father Erwin, the Second World War "Desert Fox", commanded the German forces in France.

Perhaps a Le Pen will one day become the French Ambassador to Algeria.

London group 'linked to Paris attacks'

BY ADAM SAGE IN PARIS AND STEWART TENDLER

FRENCH police believe that the wave of terrorist attacks in the country has been orchestrated by Islamic fundamentalists based in London, French newspapers reported yesterday.

Last night Scotland Yard and security sources confirmed that a man named in the newspapers as the mastermind behind the bombings has been targeted by British officers working with the French. The man is legally resident in Britain with links to an Islamic fundamentalist newssheet and uses the *nom de guerre*, Abou Fares, the name publicised in Paris.

He is one of about half a dozen Algerians identified by the Renseignment Generaux, the French equivalent of the Special Branch. The group has links all over Europe and has been under surveillance by Special Branch officers and Security Service units but has been careful not to violate any British laws. It has been watched travelling between Britain and France, Belgium, Germany and Sweden.

French intelligence passed to Britain has suggested that the group was mainly involved in fundraising although there were also suspicions that some attacks may have been planned here. Police and Security Service officers believe that they may be dealing with a group which deliberately has based itself outside its theatre of operations to avoid attack.

Last month Stella Rimington, head of MI5, noted the wave of terrorist attacks in France and said that they illustrated how new threats could emerge and how difficult they were to deal with. Such groups were relatively little known and worked in unstructured groups.

The revelations in the French press come after a bombing campaign that has left 17 people dead and 177 injured this year. Claiming that investigators had foiled a planned attack on a market in Lille, the Government said that among those detained was Boualem Bensaid, 27, an Algerian alleged to be a ringleader of the Armed Islamic Group, which claims responsibility for the terror campaign in France.

Yesterday *Le Monde* reported that Mr Bensaid had been in contact with Abou Fares, who is reported to have planned the nine attacks perpetrated in France since July. Police had discovered the link by intercepting Mr Bensaid's telephone calls.

Mr Fares, linked to the newssheet, *Al-Ansar*, had allegedly given orders to M Bensaid in the week preceding the police raids, the newspaper said. It added that the London-based militant's name had been found in an address book belonging to Khaled Kelkal, 24, the Algerian suspected of involvement in at least one attempted attack and who was shot dead near Lyons in September.

☐ **Polling days:** The French Foreign Ministry announced that it will allow Algerian residents just three days to vote in their presidential election next weekend, though the Algiers Government said they would have six days to cast a ballot. *(Reuter)*



LE FIGARO

Le providentiel brouillard de Londres

La capitale britannique abrite de nombreux extrémistes algériens : l'« émir » parisien Boualem Bensaïd était en étroit contact avec eux.

How the French press publicised the connection

Nuclear plant to be fun park

Kalkar: A fast-breeder nuclear power plant that cost Germany seven billion marks £3.2 billion to build but was never used was sold yesterday for an unrevealed sum to a Dutch investor.

Henny van der Most wants to turn it into an amusement park called Kern-Wasser-Wunderland — Nuclear Water Wonderland. The huge cooling towers may be integrated into a roller-coaster.

The reactor, 12 miles from the Dutch border in northwest Germany, was started in 1974. Thousands of police were called out regularly during mass demonstrations against its construction, completed in 1991. By then, five years after the Chernobyl disaster, the Government decided it would never go into operation. *(AP)*

Italy sickened by its fighting fit invalids

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN police yesterday began hunting for up to 50,000 fit people who have taken "jobs for life" reserved for the handicapped in yet another public-sector bribes scandal.

Cases have emerged of "blind" men driving school buses, "paraplegic" employees carrying heavy loads and "deaf and dumb" workers manning switchboards.

More than 300 Carabinieri paramilitary police are now searching records of 90 local health authorities to winkle out officials who issued disability certificates to healthy jobseekers in return for bribes. The scandal began with an investigation into the Ministry of Posts where 2,700 people are under investigation, including Carlo Vizzini, the former Minister for Posts.

Judicial sources said that the racket was common knowledge in many Government offices. Managers regularly assigned physically taxing jobs to people who were officially incapable of carrying them out.

Franco Frattini, Minister for the Civil Service, said that the exact number of false invalids was unknown, but that the figure of 30,000 "will certainly be exceeded". *La Repubblica* newspaper, citing judicial sources, puts the figure at 50,000. "One begins to wonder if any real invalid has ever been employed," the paper said.

Investigations are under way in 13 cities. A parallel investigation is being conducted into disability pensions; 15,000 fake pensioners have been found, but that is known to be the tip of the iceberg.

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The Times, in association with Barclays Premier, the gold charge card from Barclays, have joined forces to create a Museums and Galleries Passport Guide as part of a four-month celebration of art, history, science and industry. Readers will have an opportunity to visit over 100 museums and galleries offering special concessions ranging from reduced entry prices to free posters and discounts on purchases in museum shops.

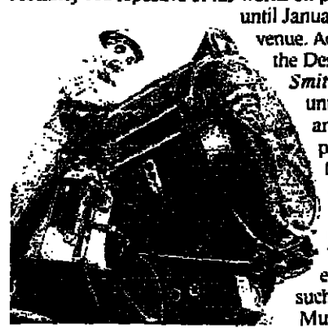
The offer is valid until the end of March and readers will be able to explore some of Britain's most stimulating treasures, from famous national exhibitions to the sometimes overlooked municipal and privately owned collections which turn a first visit into a commitment to return.

The Museums and Galleries Passport Guide comes with a Passport Card and we will feature a series of regular special events from time to time in our Weekend section indicating some additional exhibitions you may want to visit and take advantage of our exclusive offer.

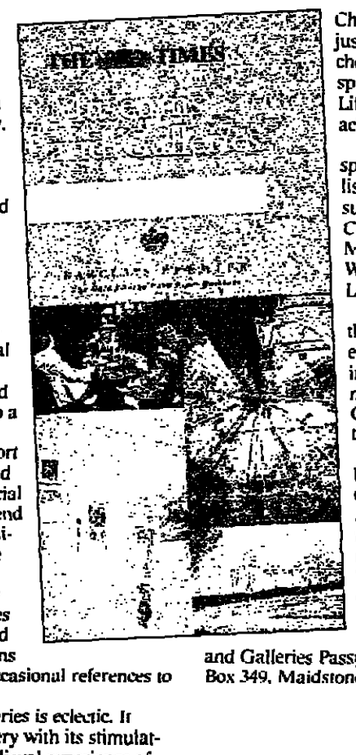
The Passport Guide is a beautifully illustrated pocket guide which includes brief descriptions of each museum and gallery and their permanent exhibitions and the concessions available, with occasional references to future programmes.

The selection of museums and galleries is eclectic. It includes Cornwall's Newlyn Art Gallery with its stimulating Contemporary art shows; the Medieval experience of Chaucer's Tales in Canterbury; the Iceni at the Lynn Museum in Norfolk; the Industrial Revolution at Ironbridge; the Museum of Childhood in Edinburgh, known, not surprisingly, as the noisiest in the world; the Linen Centre in Co Antrim and the Museum of Life in Cardiff. The coverage is widespread by both geography and interest.

There are also some specific exhibitions listed in the Guide. For instance, in London, there is the Royal Academy's celebration of the art of Africa. *Africa - the Art of a Continent*, which runs until January 21; the David Hockney retrospective of his works on paper which runs until January 28 at the same venue. Across the Thames at the Design Museum, *Paul Smith - True Brit*, is on until April 10, 1996, and uses light, sound, projections and video to capture the work of one of Britain's leading fashion designers.



There are new and expanding venues such as Catalyst, the Museum of the Chemical Industry in Cheshire, which has just opened a new gallery tracing the use of chemicals from the earliest times, and in the spring plans to open another, Chemicals for Life, showing the latest technological achievements.



With the guide you will be able to plan special outings because there are detailed listings reflecting the seasons and festivals such as *Getting Ready for a Victorian Christmas* at Blists Hill Open Air Museum; *Whisky Galore* at the Imperial War Museum or *Animal Encounters* at the London Transport Museum.

Presentation of the Passport Card at these and other participating venues will entitle you to a range of concessions, including two tickets for the price of one at most locations listed in the Passport Guide. The card can be used as many times as you wish.

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All you have to do is collect four of the six tokens which will appear in *The Times*, until next Friday, November 10, 1995. When you have collected four tokens, complete the coupon below and send them with a first class stamp, loose in the envelope, to: *The Times* Museums and Galleries Passport Offer, Spero Communications, PO Box 349, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6YU.

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■ OPINION

Never mind the quality of the film, just feel the weight of the merchandise



■ VISUAL ART

'The penetrating gaze of an African outsider': Sokari Douglas Camp's flamboyant work goes on show

THE TIMES ARTS



■ BASE NOTE

Beauty tamed at the box office: Kathleen Turner finds the going tough on Broadway



■ BASE NOTE

Bruce Springsteen browses through Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* to find inspiration for his new album

Hollywood is just toying with us

IN THE ARTS



RICHARD MORRISON

Few British parents scan the Hollywood trade paper *Variety*, which is a pity. If they did, they would see a headline this week to lift their drooping hearts, or any other organs that are sagging under the strain of dealing with the parasite classes, otherwise known as children.

The headline reads: "Xmas kidpix delays may trip toy tie-ins". Er, quite. Luckily, the story beneath translates this Delphic statement into something akin to English: "Shifting release schedules have put two holiday kid pics perilously close to Christmas, endangering their ability to generate major merchandising coin."

Still baffled? You really *have* lost the plot of global entertainment. Let me elucidate. And after that, I will explain what it's all about.

Two Hollywood studios, Columbia and Universal, have each made a kids' movie. Both will doubtless be massive at the box office. But box-office takings these days only account for part of the dosh to be made from a successful film. The rest comes from a wheeze called "merchandising". You plaster your film's logo over otherwise unremarkable clothing, hamburgers, toys. Then you sell the unremarkable items in vast numbers at remarkable prices. Ladies and gentlemen, it's called progress. When we were children, we just had boring old marbles.

And here is more progress. Film studios now save merchandisers the trouble of imitating what is on the screen. Instead, in an extended leap for mankind, what is on the screen serves purely as a 100-minute advertisement for toys that already exist. A few months ago, we welcomed *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*. Last week it was a scintillating *jeu d'esprit* called *Mortal Kombat* (love the spelling!), based on a video-game.

Univeral and Columbia are planning exactly this kind of assault on the kiddie market. Universal has made *Balto*, a cartoon about an heroic sledge-dog, which will be released in a *blitzkrieg* of cuddlesome merchandise. Columbia has dreamt up *Jumanji*, about a board game that comes to life. Naturally, the board game will soon come to life in every toyshop on six continents.

But sadly — or, to put it another way, amusingly — the studios have made a mess of their dates. Both films were due out in America this month, giving plenty of time before Christmas for megatons of merchandise to be shifted. But the studios forgot one thing. Disney is releasing *its* new teeny-epic this month. It is called *Toy Story*, and you don't need to be psychic to guess that its content will be the focus of a gargantuan merchandising operation.

You see the problem for Universal and Columbia. If they competed directly with Disney, they would be blown away — heroic sledge-dogs notwithstanding. So they pushed their release dates back a month. Disaster! Now their merchandisers are frantically warning them that this date is too close to Christmas to allow the requisite amount of mercantile tripe to be sold. One can understand the shopkeepers' alarm. Would you want 90,000 unsold replicas of an heroic sledge-dog?

Nevertheless, parents will feel some malicious glee at the studios' discomfort. They have been fleecing us for years. Now let them drown in their own useless toys.

Don't get me wrong. I know you can't turn the clock back to the days when a cinema outing required additional expenditure no greater than the cost of a hot dog, dripping with ketchup that left attractive scarlet streaks on your anorak. But I do wish that these family blockbusters weren't released so often, each one rendering the previous merchandise obsolete in the eyes of your offspring.

I look round our own house. Good grief, it's like some bizarre time-capsule evoking Late 20th-Century Trash Culture. We should seal it (perhaps we could get an Arts Council grant?) and decree that it is opened by archaeologists in the year 3000. They could then sift through the junk like geologists probing the Earth's crust.

Ninja Turtles dating back to the prehistoric 1980s would be uncovered. Power Rangers, the must-have accessories of early 1990s playgrounds, would emerge from the innards of armchairs. Pogs — those overgrown Hawaiian tiddlywinks that mysteriously swept the world last year — would shower down from shelves, each one bearing the reassuring guarantee that it is the official product of the "World Pog Corporation", and not just any old plastic rubbish.

Jurassic Park mugs; *Aladdin* swords that light up; *Lion King* playsets; *Gladiators* puppets . . . all would be uncovered, bearing witness to the intellectual life of 1990s Child. And, of course, to the gullible, weak-willed nature of 1990s Parent.

This month's essential purchase is "Baywatch Barbie", a blonde dolly equipped with her own red swimsuit and everything that bulges inside it. Well, I am not averse to having a few replicas of Pamela Anderson around the house. But this doll is a mere two inches wide. That seems a very ungenerous tribute to the most voluptuous icon of our age.

Still, I understand that Baywatch Barbie does come with a plastic dolphin that actually talks. No home is complete without one.

Where giants walk in Africa

Nigeria's top sculptor has had a life as vivid as her art, says **Ros Drinkwater**

ROS DRINKWATER



Sokari Douglas Camp wearing Kalabari tribal dress with three of her huge sculptures

Like many expatriates, the sculptor Sokari Douglas Camp likes to have those odd touches about the house to remind her of home. Sit in her south London living room and you are dwarfed by two steel palm trees that soar through the atrium — one so tall that it was once sent home in disgrace from a South Bank exhibition because it threatened to dislodge the roof of the Festival Hall.

Magnificent though they be, on the day I visited the palms were heavily upstaged by eight Africans from hell: massive grotesque figures destined for Douglas Camp's exhibition, *Play And Display*, at the Museum of Mankind. The most un-African element in the room is a steel sculpture entitled *Rose and Vi*, two geriatrics complete with shopping trolley, their class characterised by plastic rainhats and remedial shoes. Douglas Camp is fascinated by the minutiae of human behaviour, its styles and mannerisms. *Rose and Vi* is part of a four-year long observation of her south London neighbours, with what one critic described as "the penetrating gaze of the unrepentant African outsider".

Douglas Camp was born the fifth child of the third wife (papa eventually clocked up 15) of a fisherman and Kalabari chief on the island of Bugurna in southeast Nigeria. Had it not been for her mother's entrepreneurial spirit, she might still be in the mangrove swamps. "Nigerian women are great entrepreneurs," she explains. "Mother put all her children through school on the profits of palm-oil sales."

Aged three, she went to live with her schoolteacher sister, who had married an English anthropologist. When the sister died in childbirth, she remained with her brother-in-law, who sent her, at the age of eight, to an Oxford boarding school. She took the culture change in her stride, although she still shudders at the memory of the first time she ate grouse.

Not until adolescence did the question of race arise. "By then I was at Dartington Hall School and very consciousness of my 'differentness'," she says. "I had no role models: a pretty girl had a pink complexion and a rosebud mouth." Worse was to come. Sent to a Yorkshire comprehensive on a short-term student-exchange scheme, she was chased by skinheads. "Every other person seemed to tell me to have a bath. Funny people, I thought. I had a bath this morning. Then the penny dropped."

After taking her A levels, Douglas Camp opted to study art in California, where she thought black people would have a more visible role. It did not quite live up to expectations. "My fellow students had either served prison sentences or had extraordinary grants for being deprived, and they got their grades by making their teachers feel guilty. They were an elite for all the wrong reasons."

Back in Nigeria, she married an English architect, Alan Camp. The couple decided to settle in England, and in 1983 she graduated from the Central School and went on to take her MA at the Royal College. Until the death of her father, in 1984, she sculpted in wood. "I had a need to mourn him in my own way," she says. "So I decided to make him a funeral bed. I couldn't afford brass, so I made it from sheet steel." This has been her preferred material ever since, the intricate open work of her massive figures echoing the complex basketry of the Kalabari fish traps which surrounded her as a child. Her professional breakthrough came with a show at Washington's Smithsonian Institute in 1988, and now her sculpture can be found in museums and galleries around the world.

Her latest work is a study of the Masquerade, an integral part of her native Nigerian culture, which consists of dance performances by men dressed as water spirits, guardians of the islands. Her aim is to correct deep-rooted European misconceptions of African art. "There are vast aesthetic differences in what we appreciate and what Westerners appreciate," she says. "I had to come to terms with that all through my art education. The Kalabari people have no awareness of art in the Western sense. Intelligent though she was, my mother never managed to grasp the principle of perspective. For my own part, nudity in Western art always foxed me. It seemed so alien: most of the time you see people with clothes *on*, and I like familiar sights."

Douglas Camp feels that African art seen in the West loses a great deal because it is filtered through Western perceptions of taste. "The original idea for this exhibition was that I should take the objects in the Museum of Mankind as my starting point, but I found myself overwhelmed by all those masks — they can't begin to tell the full story. The full story is all about spirit and sacrifice; power, fear and wonder; costume, stance and colour. You can't express that with a disembodied head."

True to Douglas Camp's comments on the culture clash, the Museum of Mankind declined to use one of her figures on the poster lest the overt sexuality of its rolling-pin breasts offend public taste, and, heaven forbid, incite graffiti. After all, this is England. Something, alas, Douglas Camp is not likely to forget.

● Play and Display, Masquerades of Southern Nigeria *is at the Museum of Mankind until March*

BASE NOTES

THE National Theatre's New York transfer of Jean Cocteau's *Les Parents Terribles*, renamed *Indiscretions* for its Broadway run, has its last performance today after a disappointing show at the box office. Despite a cast headed by **Kathleen Turner** and **Roger Rees**, and a record nine Tony nominations last June, the show's audiences have been declining through the summer and autumn.

● NEXT week sees the launch of the **Philip Larkin** Society. The society, whose first president will be the poet **Anthony Thwaite**, plans to organise conferences, exhibitions and seminars. The launch will be part of the Hull Literature Festival, with a programme of events involving readings and talks by contemporary poets, including **Andrew Motion**, Larkin's biographer (November 10-12).

● MAJOR cast changes have been announced for the West End production of *Oliver!* at the Palladium. From November 13, **Joe McGann** will take over as Bill Sikes. Then in January **Ruthie Henshall** joins the cast as Nancy.

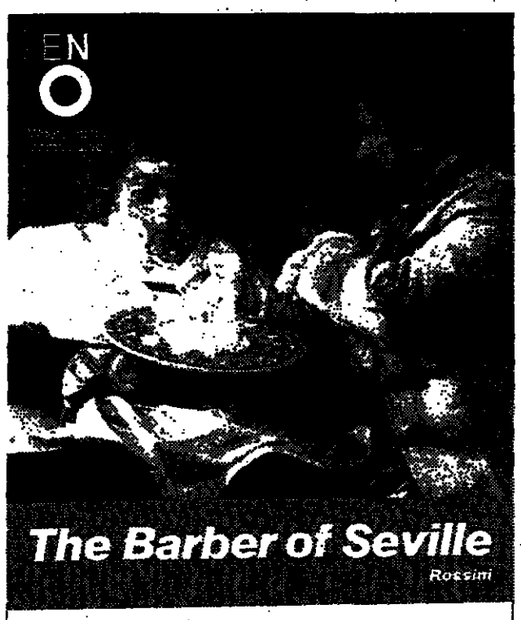
● **BRUCE Springsteen** has turned to the novelist John Steinbeck for inspiration in writing his forthcoming new album, *The Ghost Of Tom Joad*. Recorded in his home studio, its 12 songs are said to offer modern-day perspectives on characters and situations from *The Grapes Of Wrath*. Springsteen will support the LP on his first-ever solo acoustic tour, with British dates to be announced shortly.

● AN EXHIBITION of paintings and drawings by **Philip Meninsky**, *The World of Dance*, goes behind the scenes at English National Ballet. The artist spent hours with the company in class and in rehearsal. The results will be on show at the Dillon Gallery, London SW13 (0181-288 9338), from Friday.



Philip Meninsky's *Lara Adjusting Ribbon*

● THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the release of **Carole King's** seminal LP *Tapestry* is to be marked with a tribute album, *Tapestry Revisited*, on which each of the original tracks is covered by a famous King fan — **Aretha Franklin**, **Celine Dion**, **Eternal** and **Amy Grant** among them.



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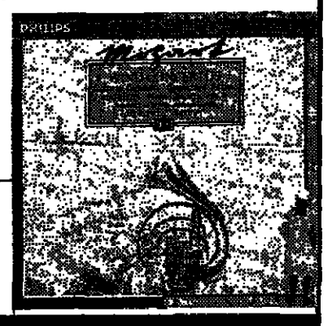
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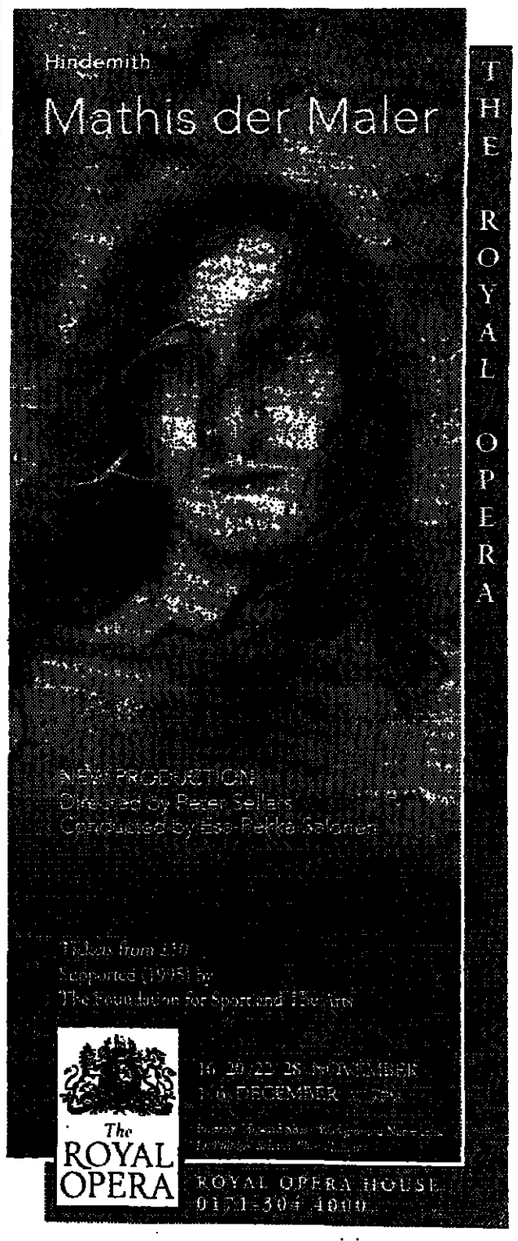


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■ DANCE

The journey from convent to degradation superbly conveyed in the Royal Ballet's *Manon*



■ THEATRE

In Hammersmith, Ford's gory *'Tis Pity She's A Whore* is strong on sets, weaker on acting

THE TIMES ARTS



■ RECORDS

Charlie Mingus and other jazz greats captured on *A Great Day in Harlem*: review Weekend, page 8



■ ON MONDAY

Oasis come to Earls Court: read David Sinclair's review of Britpop's big night out

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

VICTORIA HAMILTON



Profession: Actress

Age: 24

Appearing in: Peter Hall's production of *The Master Builder* at the Haymarket. Playing opposite Alan Bates's Solness with phenomenal nascent brilliance, Hamilton is a refreshingly unvampiric Hilde Wangel, striding into his sterile home like a back-packing mountain girl, naively fixated on this tower-building man who once promised her the world in her prepubescence. "My saving grace," says Hamilton, "is that I'd never seen the play before. I just got a strong instant feeling of how she should be played." Apparently the original costuming idea involved a split skirt and plunging neckline.

Where has she appeared from? Hamilton, tiny framed but confidently articulate, has reached the West End by leaps and bounds. From LAMDA, she went straight into television. She is Mrs Forster in *Pride and Prejudice*. Her professional stage debut was only in May at the Orange Tree, where she shone opposite Tim Pigott-Smith in James Saunders's *Retreat*, interestingly playing a more satanically calculating teenage traveller returning to entice and trouble a man from her childhood.

But what about being up there with Alan Bates? "Alan and Peter treated me as an equal from day one, a great act of faith. But it is extraordinary. I still get evenings," she confesses, "when I'm standing on stage and thinking, 'Good God, that's Alan Bates. What's he doing talking to me?' It has been a seven-week masterclass, too. I operate completely off gut and emotion. What I'm learning is the technical skills. Professionally, there has been a terrific response. You just have to concentrate on the part, on the play, or it could be heady," she says.

On acting: "Listening is 90 per cent of it. Your character is defined by everything around you."

When not acting: "I've had my nose in a book since I was very small. I listen to Radio 4 a lot. I'm discovering jazz at the moment. I used to write short stories. I never feel there is enough time: the world is so manic that you neglect yourself. But my addiction is sitting in coffee shops, talking for hours."

KATE BASSETT

DANCE: From convent respectability to sexual degradation and death — how could a girl resist?

Lure of life as a nun on the run



The Royal Ballet in Kenneth MacMillan's Manon: a compelling tale of sex and sin in 18th-century Paris, told through fine choreography, set to memorable Massenet melodies — and enhanced here by superb solo performers

Manon
Covent Garden

No wonder *Manon* is so popular. Kenneth MacMillan's ballet has everything: a compelling tale of sex and sin in 18th-century Paris, told through wonderful choreography and set to memorable Massenet melodies you can hum on the way home.

It is also a ballet for heroines. They start young and fresh, bound for the respectability of a French convent, and they end up degraded and dissolute, dying as convicts in a Louisiana swamp. An emotional journey like that does not come often to a ballerina. And at the Royal Ballet they know how to make the most of the opportunity.

From the moment she walked on stage on opening night, Sylvie Guillem seemed destined for corruption. It was clear that her Manon was a wilful young woman eager for the bright lights and financial pickings of the big city, who knew that her strongest currency was sexual charisma and who was prepared to exploit it, whatever the cost. It helped that Guillem is also the most elegant and chic of dancers — Monsieur G. M. would pay dearly for this courtesan.

Guillem's beauty and impetuosity were an irresistible lure for Jonathan Cope's sensitive and amorous Des Grieux. Their partnership is improving all the time and has now reached the happy point where no matter how good they are on their own, together they are even better. Their two pas de deux in Act I were rapturous, and Act III was a sensation: Guillem, unbelievably ravaged, and Cope, desperately trying to drag her one last step to freedom and life.

Sarah Wildor, stepping in for the injured Darcey Bussell, was making her debut as the eponymous heroine on Thursday night. Tiny and fragile, she was nonetheless not to be trifled with. Her Manon seemed to grow up instantly the second she felt that ermine and those diamonds against her porcelain skin. She enjoyed seducing Monsieur G. M.; she even enjoyed a cynical disregard for the consequences of her actions, at least until it became clear that she was in over her head. Her dancing was lovely, fluid and spontaneous, and by Act III you really felt as if she had used up all her physical reserves.

Wildor's partner was Zoltan Solymosi, not the most emotive of dancers, but he did try hard to make his Des Grieux an ardent conspirator. Elsewhere the men had mixed success. Derek Rencher was the perfect Monsieur G. M.: he exuded the aphrodisiac of power and money.

William Trevitt's Lescaut was a calculated schemer, unprincipled enough to sell his sister and a man who never dropped his guard, even during his drunken shenanigans at Madame's debauched party.

Irek Mukhamedov, as Lescaut in the Guillem cast, played this scene with too much comic bluster, which did little to hide the fact that his dancing was badly out of shape.

DEBRA CRAINE

THEATRE

Pity it's a bore

TALAWA, the Black Theatre Company, is staging John Ford's Jacobean tragedy. Like his incestuous heroine Annabella, Yvonne Brewster's production looks good on the surface. The studio in the round has been converted into a turquoise tabernacle. Biblical commandments forbidding love between brother and sister are inscribed in gold, spiralling inwards on the floor. The cast are finely costumed for period Parma, where blood red and hot apricot are all the rage. They sport medieval sashed tabards and trailing gowns, prettily slashed sleeves and very baggy pointy boots.

But the acting does not have the passion to match the picturesqueness. Almost everyone in Parma is guilty of underacting or overacting. There is some excruciating sub-panto comedy from Annabella's dunderheaded suitor and his uncle, supposedly embarrassed by his nephew but here hardly less of a twerp. On the tragic side Stephen Persaud's Giovanni, who literally adores his sister

'Tis Pity She's a Whore
Lyric Studio, W6

to death, seems at best vaguely bothered by his burning love. Persaud is getting to grips with the philosophical arguments he uses to counter his priestly tutor's protests, defining beauty as goodness and thus his worship of Annabella as no sin. But he is labouring over his points with a puzzling lack of *élan* for a scholar of dazzling promise.

More problematically, his lack of convincing ardour for Annabella mars the tragic poignancy of his final madness and denies Ford's play its radically disturbing picture of incestuous love as overwhelming and thus innocent for all its ethical unacceptability.

Ginny Holder's Annabella is far better, with delicate boned girlishness. Don Warrington as Vasques, her unwanted bridegroom's servant, also grips the attention, seducing Annabella's dark secret out of her confidante with wickedly soft kisses. Overall the verse speaking and the plot are commendably clear.

But the wedding dance, a kind of courtly disco, is a nonsense and the fight choreography carries no weight. Parma's police force have clearly run a highly successful "hand in your blades" campaign. The rapierless nobles are reduced to kick-boxing. Giovanni, confessing his feelings, bares his breast for his sister to stab, presumably with her fingernail.

KATE BASSETT

THEATRES

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Fireworks, riches and sparklers

James Bartholomew on Prince Jefri, the new owner of Asprey

I confess I have always had a soft spot for Prince Jefri, the man who is now buying Asprey. When I was researching a book about his brother, the Sultan of Brunei, I used to be very glad of the way Prince Jefri made an appearance in front of my hotel every day.

In my lonely room, I used to know he was on his way when I heard the sound of sirens whining over the otherwise dead-as-a-doornail town that is the capital of Brunei.

I went to the window and saw two motorcycle outriders racing forward at far greater speed than any other traffic. Closely behind, snapping at their heels, darted the dark form of an all-black Porsche driven by the speed-loving Prince. And lumbering behind came a limousine, containing his security men, no doubt.

This twice-daily screech was an entertainment, partly because Brunei is one of the dullest places on earth, and partly because Prince Jefri is a wonderfully dashing, anachronistic figure. He should be in an Evelyn Waugh novel. It is too lovely to believe that he really exists in the 1990s.

He is awesomely rich. He is decidedly good-looking. Even his best friends would not confuse him with a rocket scientist. But he does like to have fun. He likes — not necessarily in this order — gold, fast cars, young women, high-heeled boots, designer clothes, polo and parties. These days they do not make many chaps like this who can also, if it takes their fancy, buy up a luxury store in Bond Street.

> The party explosions prompted a neighbour to call the police

His wealth is entirely due to the fact that his family happens to be the ruling dynasty of a tiny country on whose coastline an enormous quantity of oil and gas has been discovered. His brother is a Sultan. Jefri himself is the Finance Minister. Ruling Brunei is a family business. There was an attempt to introduce democracy a few decades ago but British soldiers put an end to that. So Jefri remains the brother of one of the very last absolute monarchs.

Stories of his appetite for enjoying his wealth are so many that it is hard to know which to choose. His fun is not over sophisticated but then that is not the nature of fun. His most recent extravagance was hiring Rod Stewart to sing at a party for one of his children. But my favourite story about Prince Jefri is more topical considering that November the Fifth is tomorrow. It concerns his delight in discovering fireworks.

He was so thrilled by them that he decided that a once-a-year series of explosions on Guy Fawkes night was not enough. Nor did he think the fireworks available in ordinary shops were sufficiently substantial. So he contacted Brocks, a manufacturer of fireworks, and asked for large, commercial-size fireworks.

One night these were prepared in drain-size launchers in the garden of his Hampstead Garden Suburb home in north London. The display was, of course, utterly spectacular. So spectacular, in fact, that a wealthy and important Arab gentleman living close by thought that some terrorist group was attacking him and that his very life was in danger. In panic, he called the police.

Nothing could be more natural than that someone like Prince Jefri should want to buy Asprey. It will be rather like buying the local grocer who has been supplying his family for decades. The baubles sent from Bond Street to Brunei are legion. Jefri's sister-in-law, Queen Mariam (a former airline hostess), used to dish out Asprey watches to people who came to play badminton at her palace.

Asprey is just right for the Prince. It is lowbrow but glamorous. Who can forget that triumph of the jeweller's art as perpetrated by Asprey: the silver-gilt sculpture of a toasted, triple-decker egg sandwich? More recently the front hall has been decorated by the juke box to end all juke boxes — retro-style and gold-plated at the tempting price of £285,000. It might sound awful but I assure you that the exuberance of its vulgarity is a delight.

As to whether Prince Jefri can make a success of Asprey in the business sense, that is another matter. Asprey has been in difficulties of late. Losses have followed the tremendous profits it made in the 1980s. Back in 1986, the management gave warning that the then high level of profitability could not go on. But it did so right up to 1990.

Then Asprey, with the excessive pride that can come from success, expanded under the guidance of Naim Attallah. It spent £110 million buying Watches of Switzerland and other shops and businesses.

This did not work out. The new acquisitions made losses. Asprey itself continued to make profits but not as much as before. The big buyers did not lavish quite so much on gilded bears and diamond-encrusted, miniature dinosaurs. The share price slumped. And so, arguably, the Prince is not picking up a bargain.

But whether or not the Prince can lead the company back to recovery and renewed success is a very open question. He apparently has the idea that the Asprey brand name could be exploited around the world. This is surely true.

But exploiting brand names is not a new game. There are now hundreds of companies trying to do the same sort of thing after the famous early successes of Dunhill, Gucci and others. To succeed takes considerable business skills. Much, then, will depend on the new managing director, Ian Dahl, who has previous experience of working for Marks & Spencer.

There is the possibility, then, that the Prince will not make a great profit on his shareholding, but that he would have done better to take his £200 million plus along to the local building society and put it safely on deposit. Still, that would have been far less entertaining for the public. And for him, no fun at all.

After years of separatist strife, **Anne McElvoy** finds that the guns are falling silent

The sex war retreat

The future of politically incorrect humour is under threat. Not from the barmaids who took their employer to court for allowing Bernard Manning to indulge his famously insensitive humour in their presence, nor from the ever tighter definitions of what constitutes verbal sexual harassment. The real problem is the steady disappearance of its prime targets. Political correctness is on the wane in Britain.

If you were wondering what has become of the black, one-legged lesbian of stand-up comedian lore, she was probably not to be found at last week's meeting in Camden to discuss the future of the threatened Lesbian Centre and Black Lesbian Group. Only 20 people turned up. The institution may well follow its sibling organisations — Lesbian Survivors of Sexual Abuse, Support for Lesbians with Long Illnesses and Disabilities and the Italian Lesbian Group — into extinction.

The members as usual blame "lack of resources" for the decline of their pow-wow, although had the good grace to admit: "We got the reputation of being bathetic. It was known as the sort of place where you went if you had problems."

This might lead us to suppose that black, abused, disabled and Italian lesbians no longer have any problems, which is surely not the case. They have their share of griefs and joys like human beings of any sexual orientation. It is just that they no longer seek solace in such numbers in miserable council premises. Perhaps they have discovered that friends are less likely to be poorly resourced than municipal groups because true succour and support are not commodities which can be bought and allocated centrally, and that a cheerful night out is more likely to lift the spirits than a stint at a woebegone support group.

The fate of Camden's lesbians mirrors a wider shift from the margins to the mainstream among groups who, until recently, prided themselves on wanting to be alone with their own narrowly defined sort. The tide of separatism, based around gender exclusivity or sexual orientation, seems to be turning fast. Virago, which traditionally included on its frontispieces the literary health-warning "Virago is a feminist publishing house", has admitted its first male author. Afflicted by a slump in sales and a reputation for recycling elderly novels by women authors who were not even good first time round, it has been sold off to the mainstream Little, Brown.

How things have changed since my own university days in the mid-1980s, where the aspiring woman's CV consisted of being women's officer in the student union and chairing a committee on sexual harassment in the hope of one day securing a job at Virago. Curious about the fate of Men against Sexism and the Feminist Theory Reading Group, which had been revered organisations at my Oxford college, I called up the president of the Junior Common Room. He sounded puzzled. "I've never heard of them," he said. "We don't have a big divide between women's and men's interests in the college." It impressed me that he spoke as if this harmonious existence were the natural order of things. The days when the Men Against Sexism group met to beat their breasts about how guilty they felt for desiring women had passed out of student folk-memory.

I cannot help thinking that the decline in separatist enterprises, informed by a mixture of self-pity and aggression, is a positive feature of the gentler social climate of the Major years. The ideological polarities of Margaret Thatcher's reign pervaded every area of our thinking and set up antagonisms and divisions where none need have existed. Irrespective of political persuasion, we were all Thatcher's children in that we defined ourselves by being pro this or anti that, and were accepted or rejected from social groups and alliances on that basis. Group-rights went unquestioned, individual opinions or pick-and-mix politics à la Tony Blair unthinkable.

This was a pallid, middle-class version of the Leninist concept of struggle. The statement of Virago's founders read: "It is only when women start to organise in large numbers that we become a political force and move forwards towards the possibility of a truly democratic society." They appeared to have swallowed *State and Revolution* whole. All they did was substitute women for the oppressed proletariat.

The irony is that despite Margaret Thatcher's role as chief monster in the eyes of group rights campaigners, they thrived best under her. The very idea of a "support group", previously reserved for empathising with the plight of the downtrodden in faraway places, was popularised at home during the miners' strike and then applied to just about any group who felt that they needed the warmth of the herd. You cannot, with the most paranoid will in the world, feel that you need much group support faced with the terrors of John Major.

Watching the solemn, proud faces gathered at Louis Farrakhan's Million Man March in Washington last month brought home to me how different things are in America, where race rather than gender currently holds the trump card in the separatist game. Farrakhan demonstrated that however flawed and wild his rhetoric, he could command that sense of irrational belonging which makes people define their entire political and social consciousness through a single characteristic — in this case, skin colour.

Angela Davis, ur-feminist campaigner who is, herself, black, described the event as "retrograde politics, casting men as the saviours of families and communities". Her real beef was that the burgeoning black movement was usurping the redeeming role feminism reserved for women.

Both crusades diminish the people they claim to elevate by limiting their contribution to human happiness and their understanding of the world through the narrowest of channels. The signs are, alas, that American blacks are currently more receptive to the message of Farrakhan, who thinks that colour maketh man, than to Colin Powell, who believes that identity and interests are a more individual matter. The sex war may have been called off owing to lack of interest. But its rallying cries will be heard again, on other lips.

The Bard bites back

The Prince of Wales has published his favourite extracts of Shakespeare. We give the Bard right of reply, through lines taken exclusively from his plays

Scene one: *A tavern in Southwark. Enter Shakespeare with copy of "The Prince's Choice". He is black-browed.*

BARD:
Was ever book containing such
vile matter
So fairly bound? O that deceit
should dwell
In such a gorgeous palace!
I pray you sir, what saucy
merchant was this, that was so full
of his ropery? Scurvy knave!

TAVERN-KEEPER:
A gentleman that loves to hear
himself talk, and will speak more in
a minute than he will stand to in
a month.

BARD:
What, up and down, carved like
an apple-tart?

Simon Jenkins

Here's snip and nip and cut and
slish and slash,
Like to a censor in a barber's
shop!
You have no children, butcher: If
you had,
The thought of them would have
stirr'd up remorse,
But if you ever chance to have a
child,
Look in his youth to have him so
cut off.

TAVERN-KEEPER:
They have been at a great feast of languages and stol'n the scraps. O, they have lived long on the alms-basket of words. I marvel thy master hath not eaten thee for a word. It is the Prince of Wales that threatens thee, who never promiseth but he means to pay.

BARD:
That same sword-and-buckler
Prince of Wales!
But I think his father loves him
not
And would be glad he met with
some mischance,
I would have him poisoned with
a pot of ale.
He hath not the gift to woo in
other places: for these fellows of
infinite tongue, that can rhyme
themselves into ladies' favours, they
do always reason themselves out
again.
I'll write him a very taunting
letter, and thou shalt bear it . . .
I'll write it straight; the matter's
in my head and in my heart. I will be
bitter with him and passing
short.

Scene two: *St James's Palace. Enter Charles, disconsolate, and a courtier.*

COURTIER:
Play music! Prince, thou art sad,
get thee a wife, get thee a wife.

CHARLES:
A college of wit-crackers cannot
flout me out of my humour. Dost
thou think I care for a satire or an
epigram? Man is a giddy thing and
this is my conclusion.
For every trifle they are set upon
me,
Sometimes like apes that move
and chatter at me,
And after bite me . . .
. . . sometimes am I
All wound with adders, who with
cloven tongues
Do hiss me into madness.

(Enter messenger with Bard's letter)

CHARLES *(reading)*:
"I am cut to the brains.
Why this would make a man of salt
To use his eyes for garden water-pots.
Bruise me with scorn, confound
me with a flout,
Cut me to pieces with thy keen
conceit;
And I will wish thee never more
to dance.
'Tis a knavish piece of work. But
what of that?
Your majesty and we that have
free souls — it touches us not.
Let the gall'd jade winch, our
withers are unwrung!"
(Charles throws letter on floor, annoyed)
They take it already upon their
salvation that, though I be but
Prince of Wales, yet I am the king
of courtesy, and tell me flatly, I am
no proud Jack but a Corinthian, a
lad of mettle, a good boy. God forbid



As he liked it: Prince Charles gives his Macbeth at Gordonstoun in 1965

a shallow scratch should drive
the Prince of Wales from such a field
as this.
(To courtier)
Fortune in favour makes him lag
behind.
Summon a parley, we will talk
with him.

Scene 3: *Southwark tavern. Enter Bard and Globe actress, reading the royal summons.*

BARD:
I warrant he hath a thousand of
these letters, writ with blank spaces
for different names. And these
are of the second edition!
He will print them, out of doubt;
for he cares not what he puts into the
press. Let's be revenged on
him: let's appoint him a meeting,
give him a show of comfort in
his suit.

ACTRESS:
I know I can do it. I will drop in
his way some obscure epistles of
love, wherein by the colour of his
beard, the shape of his leg, the
expressure of his eye, forehead
and complexion, he shall find
himself most feelingly
personated.
BARD:
Excellent, I smell a device.

Scene four: *St James's. Prince reading letter in female hand:*

CHARLES:
Soft, here follows prose: "Be not
afraid of greatness . . . Cast thy
humble slough and appear fresh.
Be opposite with a kinsman, surly
with servants; let thy tongue tang
arguments of state; put thyself into
the trick of singularity.
Remember who commended thy
yellow stockings and wish'd to
see them ever cross-garter'd . . . She
thus advises thee that sighs for
thee." Jove, my stars be praised.
The actors are at hand; and by
their show,
We shall know all, that we am
like to know.

Scene five: *Night time under a tree. Charles has arranged an assignation. Enter Bard, disguised as actress.*

BARD *(in high voice)*:
A whole bookful of these
quondam carpet-mongers, whose
names yet run smoothly in the
even road of blank verse, why they
were never so turned over as my
poor self in love. No, I was not born
under a rhyming planet, nor I
cannot woo in festive terms.

CHARLES *(much moved)*:
Why thy verse swells with stuff so
fine and smooth
That thou art even natural in
thine art . . .
Look you, I love you well, I'll give
you gold.
Rid me these villains from your
company;
Hang them, stab them, drown
them in a draught,
Confound them by some course,
and come to me,
I'll give you gold enough.
Will you sit down with me and
we two will rail
Against our mistress the world
and all our misery?

BARD *(angrily tearing off disguise)*:
I will chide no breather in the
world but myself, against whom I
know most faults. Your worst
fault is to be in love.

CHARLES *(appalled)*:
'Tis a fault I would not change for
your best virtue. I am weary of you.

BARD:
I pray you, mar no more of my
verses with reading them so ill-
favouredly.

CHARLES:
I pray you, mar no more trees
with writing love songs in their
barks.

BARD:
Charles, I will play no more
tonight
My Mind's not on't. You are too
hard for me.

Each extract, of at least a couplet's length, is from a Shakespeare play: a copy of *The Prince's Choice* and a magnum of champagne for the first correct identification of them.

Hot Bath

THE WORLD watched enraptured, but the BBC's dramatisation of *Pride and Prejudice* has not met with universal approval. Bath City Council is considering suing the corporation over its book *The Making of Pride and Prejudice*.

The trouble is over a map on page 23 showing the locations used in the film. A large arrow points to Bath with the annotation "No filming allowed", and the council is livid.



Causing a classic row

Not only did the BBC shoot Jane Austen's *Persuasion* in Bath last October — and *Poldark* has been filmed there more recently — but the city goes out of its way to encourage film-makers to use it as a location. "We are taking this very seriously. The book makes us look like complete idiots and I've been talking to the city solicitor," says Richard Angel, of the council's film unit. "We are very pro-active in the film office. This year it has brought over £1.2 million into the local economy. A map like this doesn't help."

The BBC washes its hands of the affair. "It's a Penguin publication, so it's up to them to respond," says a representative. Penguin is surprised: "The arrow is meant to designate one building, not the whole of Bath," says a spokeswoman. "It sounds to me as if they are overreacting."

● *The audience at Thursday's gala premiere of the film* Strange Days, *which opened the London Film Festival, behaved like the fifth form at a school pantomime. When Wilf Stephenson, the director of the British Film Institute, mentioned the Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley in his speech before the screening, the entire cinema broke into howls, hisses and boos.*

Bench mark

PETER MANDELSON has been trying out the government benches for size. He made his frontbench debut in the House of Commons on Thursday night as Shadow Civil Service Minister.

But before speaking, the slippery fish was spotted sitting on the government benches, trying out the dispatch box and sharing a joke with Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman. "He seemed to find the seat of Government very accommodating," says an observer.

Saucy

A HOT little rumour was circulating in Westminster yesterday: that the former party chairman Jeremy Hanley had acquired a pair of boxer shorts decorated with vivid images of bottles of Tabasco sauce.

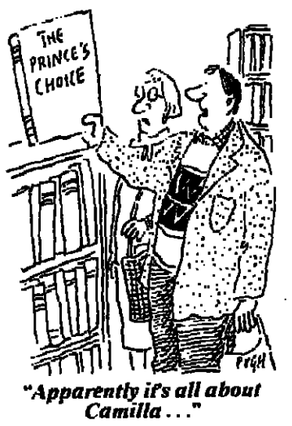
Hanley was unavailable to answer the charge, which arose from a meeting in London on Thursday of an elite epicurean society, the Tabasco Club, which he has joined. "He didn't get to the meeting, but there are definitely two Members of Parliament with such underpants," said a fellow epicurean. Does Hanley wear them? And, if not, who are the two MPs? A pound of chilli peppers to the reader who finds out.

Him of praise

THE PRINCE of Wales confesses to a secret passion for country churches in a TV programme to be screened tomorrow. He gets tremendously excited whenever a church door opens. "It is a wonderful moment when you take in the whole of the interior of a church."

His favourite is Walpole St Peter, near Sandringham. "There is this particularly special quality of light, which floods into it and the combination of the stone, the wood, which has that slightly limed look, and the whitewashed walls are unbelievably comforting and special."

● *Giles Gordon, the literary agent who shocked the London literary establishment by moving to Edinburgh, has received a second writ from the Sheil Land Agency he left, alleging that he "orchestrated" a press campaign against the agency's chief executive, Sonia Land. "I'm utterly bemused. At a loss to know what she wants from me," he says.*



"Apparently it's all about Camilla . . ."

Royal role

THE NEW Earl Percy, 11-year-old George Dominic Percy, whose father has just inherited his late brother Harry's title of Duke of Northumberland, will soon be receiving a royal command. By tradition, members of the family are train-bearers to members of the Royal Family on state occasions.

His grandfather, the 10th Duke, was Lord Steward of the Household and Goldstick-in-Waiting at the Coronation of King George VI. His great-grandmother was Mistress of the Robes and train-bearer to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother for 25 years.

Although the train-bearing role is usually granted to the eldest son, there is no record of Harry ever having done so, even though he was the Queen's godson. But scores of his forebears have attended the Crown. Young George is unlikely to be asked to perform in the State Opening of Parliament later this month. But by the time of the Garter ceremony next June, he can expect a royal summons.



George: trained for office

P·H·S

صكذا من الاصل

KREMLIN SICKNESS

When leaders ail and parties are banned

President Yeltsin is more seriously ill than his aides have permitted the world to know. This became clear yesterday when he appeared on television in an attempt to quash rumours about his health — inevitable, given Russia's long history of mendacious reports about sick leaders' recoveries. President Yeltsin's face was puffy, his words slurred, his body virtually motionless. More tellingly, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, announced that he had taken over responsibility for co-ordinating the four key ministries in Russia: defence, security, foreign and internal affairs. To every Russian, the loss of the "power" ministries, however temporary, is a sure sign that Mr Yeltsin has surrendered his authority. It also indicates that Mr Chernomyrdin has, for the moment, won the power struggle that is now raging.

The best evidence for this struggle has been the brazen attempt by those who have the most to lose to hamper the parliamentary elections in December. The decision by the Central Election Commission to outlaw the nationalist grouping Derzhava was not unexpected: its leader is Aleksandr Rutskoi, the former vice-president who incited insurrection in 1993. When this was followed by a ban on the liberal Yabloko bloc, the suspicion immediately hardened that the Commission, acting under duress, was attempting to remove the twin threats — from the nationalists and the reformers — to the Prime Minister's own party which is most closely identified with support for Mr Yeltsin.

The pressure could have come only from the shadowy figures in the Kremlin wings. Like those who manipulated Brezhnev in his final, incapacitated years, they are determined to consolidate their power by maintaining the status quo. This means, if necessary, cancelling the Duma elections or so restricting the choice that the election reverts to the classic Soviet foregone conclusion. The next step would be to cancel next summer's presidential election. Mr Yeltsin may by then be only a figurehead. But General Korzhakov, the sinister janissary who controls access to him, and those who have enriched themselves, materially and politically, could carry on ruling without check.

Yet however much in Russian politics has reverted to Soviet type, public opinion cannot now be flouted quite so transparently. Ordinary Russians may be cynical about politicians and distrustful of many Duma candidates seeking election to gain parliamentary immunity from criminal prosecutions; but they still believe the political freedoms gained after the fall of Communism worth defending. So, evidently, do the Communists. The party, now looking stronger than ever, was as vociferous in denouncing the ban on Yabloko as other groupings in the Duma. Presumably it reckoned that any victory gained at the expense of the only credible liberal grouping would undermine its own authority.

The Commission hastily announced it would look again at its decisions. So far it has reversed course over Derzhava, but has refused to back down on Yabloko. That decision may be taken today. Mr Yeltsin, who must know that he would now probably lose to Yabloko's leader, Grigory Yavlinsky, has therefore steeled himself to confer on Mr Chernomyrdin the apparent trappings of succession. Some aides, hoping themselves to assume power by a palace coup, will be furious. But Mr Chernomyrdin has proved himself a cautious, steady, reliable conciliator. He projects continuity and legitimacy in a new time of troubles. Russian democracy, as the week's events show, is still extremely fragile: at least the Prime Minister is now better armed to prevent its collapse.

BEFORE THE EMPIRE

Anglo-Saxon ideals that predate our imperial age

The Queen's trip to New Zealand this week was marred by angry demonstrations from Maori protesters, urging the Crown to give back the land allegedly stolen from the aboriginal peoples in 1840. She dealt with this hostility with customary grace and poise. As when she was phoned by a hoax caller from Canada last week, the Queen's demeanour in adverse circumstances was an advertisement for the monarchy and its incumbent, rather than the setback it might have been.

The grievance of the Maoris is one which the Prince of Wales encountered last year when he visited New Zealand. In 1840, their tribal ancestors signed the Treaty of Waitangi with Lieutenant-Governor Hobson, handing over New Zealand in return for assured possession of their lands, fisheries and forests.

The Maoris argue that many lands were wrongly confiscated and still have to be returned. Yesterday the Queen signed a strongly phrased apology as part of a £70 million package compensating the Tainui federation of tribes for lands taken from them 132 years ago. The settlement expressed "profound regret and apologies unreservedly for the loss of lives because of hostilities arising from this invasion and at the devastation of property and social life which resulted".

Few statements of this kind have ever been made by the Crown. It is not always possible to right the wrongs of the past or settle the arguments of history through retrospective action. Britain does not expect apologies from Spain for the Armada. It has proved difficult even to persuade Japan to make acceptable amends for the wartime atrocities it committed against British prisoners-of-war.

To correct the mistakes of a century or more ago is harder still. In New Zealand, the Crown has made commendable efforts to do so.Nor should the original wrongs be exaggerated. The Waitangi agreement was remarkable for its recognition of the Maoris' legal personality. Australia, in contrast, was treated a *terra nullius* and the Aborigines as irrelevant inhabitants rather than prospective claimants. The 1840 deal governing New Zealand's future was scarcely enlightened by today's standards.

By the standards of its own time, it was a generous agreement and the cultural foundation of subsequent attempts to improve the lot of the Maoris. A Waitangi tribunal was instituted two decades ago to address the problems of the indigenous peoples and the special status of Maori people has long been a key question in New Zealand politics.

This is not to excuse the injustices of the past. But the instinct of Britons today to beat their collective chest in restrospective shame should be kept in check. As Robert Rhodes James argued in *The Times* yesterday, Britain's colonial record is far less awful than is often assumed. Many appalling errors were committed in the name of imperial Britannia; but so too were many acts of sincere paternalistic decency. Our nation's past must not be the cause of unalloyed guilt.

More importantly, we should not assume that our imperial past and our national roots are identical. The Anglo-Saxon virtues which the Queen celebrated in a speech on Thursday — "patience, tolerance, perseverance and a will to succeed" — have far older origins than the Empire which has been the cause of so much national introspection. Our most venerable characteristics are the product of island existence, a common law tradition and an individualistic attachment to property rights, tolerance and personal liberty. These ideals, far more than 19th-century colonialism, account for our national identity. It was these principles that enabled the Queen to behave with such apt sensitivity in New Zealand this week.

SÃO MIDDLESBROUGH

Will Juninho shine, or will he go the way of Celtic Swing?

Although his game is more caviare than gravy, Juninho looks just like the Bisto Kid. And that may be why noble Middlesbrough, a classic meat-and-two-veg place, adores him already. The callow youth from São Paulo has not yet laid Brazilian boot to English ball — the Home Office killjoys have kept him on the bench so far — but he makes his debut today against an apprehensive Leeds United. Not since Celtic Swing's debut in April have so many sports-mad mouths watered so profusely. The kick-off at the Riverside Stadium, for millions, could not happen fast enough.

But wait, we hear you snort: hang on a minute... Celtic Swing? Celtic Swing?! Wasn't that the "horse from heaven" who fell flat on his nostrils?

Actually, we do not need to be reminded: for humble pie — made not, alas, of Celtic Swing himself — was eaten in great chunks in Wapping, by everyone from the Editor to *The Times*'s red-faced racing correspondent. Before the Greenham Stakes at Newbury, his column trumpeted that "Celtic Swing aces against Bellerophon — and even Pegasus".

"Those who ride him," we wrote, to our subsequent embarrassment, "say he is flawless. Those who watch — and bet — agree." The hotly-hyped horse did win at Newbury, thank the turf gods, but didn't really win much more — not even our over-excited fantasy 2,000 Guineas, in which he "raced" on the *Timeform* computer against such equine greats as Tudor Mistrel and Nijinsky. Celtic Swing... well, we goofed. Not since the case of Charles Parnell has *The Times* had so much egg on its face, although our mistake in 1887 cost us more than an arm and a hoof in damages.

But then, over a century ago, we accused Mr Parnell, the leader of the Irish parliamentary group in the Commons, of complicity in the Phoenix Park murders. Serious stuff, when you think about it: Celtic Swing, on the other hand, was just a case of backing the wrong horse. We accused him, you might say, of being better than he really was.

So what has all of this to do with Osvaldo Giroldo Junior — Juninho? Quite a lot, really, because we are sticking our newsprint necks out once again. We predict that he will be the most rewarding foreign signing ever made by an English club. Juninho will mix magic and mansuetude, creamy pitch skills and off-pitch good manners, to confect a success in which all Middlesbrough will bask. And when he does that we will say — with some relief — that we have exorcised the ghost of Celtic Swing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Humanity versus security in prisons

From Mr Michael Chichester

Sir, In recommending that humanity should take precedence over security in prison policy, Judge Stephen Tumim, the Chief Inspector of Prisons [report, October 28; and see Judge Tumim's article, November 2], and the hosts of the liberal establishment who agree with him, have forgotten or perhaps chosen to ignore a vital democratic principle: the first duty of government is to defend the realm.

After 50 years of peace in Europe we citizens, our homes and our possessions are at greater risk than ever before — not from invasion or aerial bombardment but from terrorism, drugs, illegal immigration, violent crime and dangerous criminals allowed to escape or mistakenly set free from prison.

The defences of the realm against these diverse and increasing threats have been weakened and in some cases almost destroyed by legal and bureaucratic constraints on the police, inadequate sentencing policy, and poor prison security and lack of discipline — all compounded by the Treasury's iron grip on the law and order budget.

If put into practice Judge Tumim's recommendation would deny the law-abiding citizen the protection against violent criminals to which he is entitled and which it is the duty of government to provide.

Prisons, their security and their staffing collectively represent an important area of national defence. Neither government agency nor private security firms are appropriate methods of providing this. Both governors and staff must be capable of enforcing firm and fair discipline on those in their charge and must bear responsibility for escapes and riots.

A civilised society protects its citizens and punishes its wrongdoers.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CHICHESTER,
The Mead House,
Taynton, Burford, Oxfordshire.
November 1.

From His Honour Michael Argyle, QC

Sir, Like very many law-abiding citizens of this country, I welcome with relief the imminent end of the long and disastrous term of office of the present Chief Inspector of Prisons. The last eight years have seen our prisons (awash with dangerous drugs) shamefully handed over to the control of prisoners, who number some 50,000 out of a total population of 58 million.

Two spin-offs have been that virtually nothing has been done for the victims of crime, and that the plight of the tiny, ill-led and under-resourced male and female members of the Prison Service has been ignored.

I am driven to write by the remark of the Chief Inspector of Prisons (whom I do not know personally) that the Learmont report on jail security will lead to "the road to the concentration camp". This is a gross and gratuitous insult to the rank-and-file members of the Prison Service and to the present Home Secretary, and yet another example of how the latter's efforts to reform and improve the present system are continually frustrated.

In the deep snow of the Italian winter of 1944-45, my dismounted squadron of regular cavalry fought alongside and cheek-by-jowl with the newly-formed Jewish Infantry Brigade.

Opposed to us (sometimes hand-to-hand) were the German SS, very professional soldiers, well armed and well dug in and incensed at being confronted by a few Hussars, a handful of Canadian gunners and a brigade of candidates for their concentration camps. I saw at first hand the legendary courage of the Jews in battle. After that war, my late wife and I visited the site of Belsen. I believe that I can write with authority on this subject.

I fervently hope that the next chief inspector of prisons is given a new and different brief and directive, enabling him or her to adopt a fresh approach. Basically, the post requires only one quality — leadership. Ask any member — male or female — of the 25,000 serving prison officers.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL ARGYLE,
The Red House, Fiskerton,
Nr Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

From Mr Victor Dyer

Sir, I wish to express how happy I was to hear Judge Stephen Tumim's views on the Learmont inquiry. As a prisoner who has been in many establishments over the years, I have recently seen a vast deterioration in the inmate-prison officer relationship because of the new regime introduced by Michael Howard.

There now seems to be more confrontation as officers are put on the front line to deal with inmates who have done nothing wrong against prison discipline and are being punished by the removal of privileges, such as association with other inmates, education facilities and more humane exercise. The budget is now concentrating on security and not on rehabilitation.

I can understand Judge Tumim's reference to "the concentration camp", as this seems to be the road along which Michael Howard is steering the Prison Service — not forward but in reverse.

Yours sincerely,
V. DYER,
HM Prison High Point,
Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk.
October 29.

Lost opportunity on Keats House

From Mr Gerald Isaaman

Sir, Your leader on the bicentenary of the birth of John Keats ("Romantic hero", November 1) rightly chastises Camden Council for its awful neglect of Keats House in Hampstead and procrastination over the transfer of this national shrine to the care of the Corporation of London.

"The irony is that a meeting was due to take place on Keats's birthday, which is celebrated on October 31, between the Charity Commissioners, Camden and the City of London Corporation to finalise the registration of Keats House as a charity and its transfer. An announcement on that day would have made a welcome birthday celebration. Alas, the commission postponed the meeting.

Some two years have passed since it was first suggested to the Corporation that, given its record of care for Hampstead Heath, it should undertake responsibility for Keats House, so irresponsibly unloved by Camden. Much lobbying has gone on since then, while the house has been left to deteriorate.

It has just suffered the insult of the curator's being refused a V & A purchase grant to buy the important Buxton-Forman archive, formed by two leading scholars on the poet, because of the "insecure" future of the museum.

This is why it needs to be in safe hands so that it can be restored, granted full museum status, promoted as a tourist attraction and perhaps profitably used as an educational resource for schools and, possibly, as a centre for romantic poetry.

This welcome outcome, the very least of what ought to be demanded in tribute to a genius who did not seek "mawkish popularity", could be assured at a stroke if only the Charity Commissioners and others realised that this national scandal has to be resolved urgently.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD ISAAMAN,
Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2.
November 1.

From Mr Bernard Beatty

Sir, You inform us that Byron called Keats's work "piss-a-bed poetry". He did so but there is no evidence for, nor the remotest plausibility in, the nasty gibe that this was done "from jealousy".

Byron detested cant and *schmaltz*, and he respected fact. Your third leader seems to be composed of equal doses of cant and *schmaltz*, plus an unfounded innuendo.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BEATTY
(Academic Editor,
The Byron Journal),
The University of Liverpool,
Department of English Languages,
Liverpool L69 3BX.
November 1.

Stout defence of the Court Circular

From the Secretary of the Constitutional Monarchy Association

Sir, Even those of us who may regret the simplification of the wording of the Court Circular (Diary, October 26; letters, October 26, November 1) should not lose sight of the fact that the important thing is *what* is written, and not *how* it is written.

It is also essential that the Court Circular should record the official engagements of all the Royal Family, including the "junior" members such as Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, whose hard work is too little known by the general public.

People who believe the Queen and her family lead lives of indolence should be encouraged to read the unremitting demands of duty revealed in the circular, and reminded that this is just the tip of the iceberg. Not included are the hours the Queen spends on state papers — "doing the boxes" — the preparation of speeches, studying of reports from charities and other causes, and planning for events at home and abroad.

However the Circular is worded, long may it continue to keep us informed about the vital role our monarchy plays in the life of the nation.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD FOREMAN, Secretary,
The Constitutional Monarchy Association,
PO Box 430, Chingford, E4.
November 2.

From Sir Desmond Heap

Sir, So the wording of the Court Circular is to be made more "user-friendly" and to be "pruned and made more appealing". I never read such nonsense in all my life.

Let us be clear about where all these sloppy, sentimental suggestions are taking us. Basically they seek one thing and one thing only — to get us all like each other which, thank Heaven, we are not. They seek to spread familiarity.

And what did familiarity do (as my mother taught me to ask)? The answer is simple. Familiarity bred contempt; it still does.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
your obedient servant,
DESMOND HEAP,
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.
November 1.

From Mr Denis Christian

Sir, On the assumption that the Court Circular is published as much for the information of one's subjects as for any glorification why, I wonder, is it that an occasion in which a lord lieutenant is involved has his title before his name, but a deputy lieutenant his name before his title?

These things are important in my classless society.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS CHRISTIAN,
37 Swanscombe Road, Chiswick, W4.
November 1.

Remembrance of civil sacrifice, too

From Field Marshal Sir John Stanier

Sir, Many of us will recall with pride the scenes of commemoration and celebration of VE Day and VJ Day. These great occasions seemed to draw a line under our recollections of the two world wars, encouraging us to forget old enmities and look forward to a new century of reconciliation. But Remembrance Sunday urges us never to forget the sacrifices of the past.

Naturally, none of us who are older will ever forget the loss of friends and relatives in the two great wars; but to the younger generations the sacrifices of grandparents and great-grandparents become increasingly difficult to share and understand.

What is not difficult for most of us to remember is the great number of servicemen who have laid down their lives in lesser campaigns since 1945.

But it has not only been those in the Armed Forces who have sacrificed their lives. Every day we hear of brave men and women who have given their own lives in the protection or saving of others. These are notably in the police, the fire services, the lifeboat service, mountain rescue teams and mine rescue workers, to name but a few.

Might it not be timely, from 1996, to widen the focus of Remembrance Sunday to include all those selfless people who have in one role or another made the supreme sacrifice for others?

Whether they were sailors, soldiers or airmen fighting for our country, or men and women in other uniforms or none defending the lives of others, surely it is right that their sacrifices should be remembered, and that their names, also, should live for evermore.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STANIER
(Constable),
HM Tower of London, EC3.
November 2.

Future of Synod

From the Reverend Donald C. Flatt

Sir, In 1986 the late Dean of St Albans, Peter Moore, edited a book called *The Synod of Westminster, Do We Need It?* At least one of the contributors to this thoughtful publication declared that the time had come to call a halt to continual revision and that most churchmen were sick and tired of the mania for change.

If more attention had been paid to this important book at the time of its publication the Church of England would not be in the sad position it is today.

It may now be too late; but the Church of England would benefit greatly, in my opinion, if the Synod could be closed down for a number of years and the representatives returned to their respective parishes; they could then be directed to proclaim the Gospel and endeavour to heal those in need.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD C. FLATT,
The Stables Cottage,
Lamb Court,
Dulverton, Somerset.
November 1.

UN as peacekeepers

From the Director of the UN Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sir, In the course of Mr Grahame Keating's attack on the UN (letter, October 31) he refers to the $1.5 billion per year spent on one operation (presumably Unprofor) as "hugely expensive". But what would be the cost to us if the conflict in Bosnia spread to other parts of Europe?

I share Mr Keating's concern about the use of humanitarian aid to feed the warring factions, but this tends to happen with any relief operation, whether or not the UN is involved. What we need to consider is whether we are prepared to allow innocent civilians to starve in order to deny food to soldiers.

The collapse of safe areas was a very dark hour for those national politicians and commentators who demanded their establishment but then refused to listen to the warnings from UN staff that they would collapse without sufficient troops on the ground. The UN originally asked for 35,000 troops to deter attacks on civilians in the safe areas but ultimately received only 7,000.

Since the UN needs to focus its peacekeeping effort on other more horrific but less "newsworthy" conflicts outside Europe, there is a case for Nato to assume responsibility for the military aspects of the Bosnian peace plan. However, Nato has very little experience of the political aspects of peacekeeping, such as monitoring human rights, observing elections and funding economic reconstruction.

If the peace implementation plan currently does not properly address these issues it is unlikely that the Bosnian conflict will be permanently resolved. Most responsible commentators agree that there is no military solution to this tragic war.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM HARPER,
Director,
United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
3 Whitehall Court, SW1.
November 1.

Death of the Duke

From Miss Jackie St Clair

Sir, I write firstly to express my sincere condolences to the family of the late Duke of Northumberland, who passed away earlier this week after many years of ill health (obituary, November 2). Those who knew him are deeply saddened by the loss of such a truly kind and intelligent man.

I also feel compelled to set the record straight, as speculation elsewhere in the media regarding the nature of my friendship with the Duke has escalated out of all proportion. In the short time I knew him we became friends and he is already missed enormously; however, there was never any romance whatsoever between us, nor did he at any time propose marriage to me.

Perhaps his family may now be left to grieve with dignity and peace.

Yours faithfully,
J. St CLAIR,
c/o Henri Brandman & Co,
43 Queen Anne Street, W1.
November 3.

Bye, bye blackbird

From Mrs Joan Atkins

Sir, We have been hearing a great deal about the strange behaviour of birds in this unusual year (letter, October 28), but where are they? Certainly not here. For the past month and more I have been enjoying a magnificent display of red berries on the *Pyracantha* outside my kitchen window, due no doubt in part to the exceptional summer but also to the complete absence of blackbirds.

Usually almost before the last berries have ripened they arrive and demolish the lot, but not this year. I don't know whether to be glad or sorry, but I would like to know the reason.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN O. E. ATKINS,
21 Courtyards,
Little Shelford, Cambridge.

Weekend Money letters, page 38

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Over the rainbow

From Mr Andrew Ailes

Sir, I have a pink toad in London (Mr Watson's letter, October 28) but I am much more familiar with its mother, who lives in the garden of my north Devon home.

She is a lovely creature with the pastel pinks of a Victorian painted doll. Most years I exchange tadpoles between London and Devon in the belief that I am improving the stock, and on two occasions have brought pink toad spawn to London, though I have never seen a young pink toad leave the pond, nor a male pink toad.

I have a theory that pink toads may be a sub-species, since mine spawns at least two weeks after the other toads. I briefly interested the BBC Natural History Unit in the idea that if Thompson could have a gazelle, and Clarke a nutcracker, why not a toad for Ailes? Unhappily such fame has eluded me.

Yours etc,
ANDREW AILES,
63 Ullswater Crescent,
Kingston Vale, SW15.
November 1.

French nuclear tests

From Mr Ronald C. Geddes

Sir, The Prime Minister supports the French nuclear tests on the ground that scientific advice made it impossible not to go ahead (report, October 31). We can't let such an argument be used in every decision we make.

There is surely also plenty of scientific evidence that nuclear tests damage the environment.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD GEDDES,
2 Castle Street, Cupar, Fife.

Silence is golden

From Ms Janet Mattacks

Sir, "... don't complain and don't explain". If only the ubiquitous Stephen Fry (reports, November 2) had taken the advice instead of merely quoting it.

Yours faithfully,
JANET MATTACKS,
22 Hampden Close,
North Weald, Epping, Essex.
November 2.

COURT CIRCULAR

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
WELLINGTON
November 3: The Rt Hon Helen Clark MP (Leader of the Opposition) was received by The Queen this morning.

Her Majesty attended a meeting of the New Zealand Executive Council at Government House.

The Queen received Mrs Marie Shroff (Secretary and Registrar of the Order of New Zealand and The Queen's Service Order) who presented Reports of the Orders.

Her Excellency Dame Catherine Tizard (Governor-General) was present.

Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu was received by Her Majesty when The Queen signified the Royal Assent to the Waikato Raupato Claims Settlement Act submitted by the Rt Hon James Bolger MP (Prime Minister) and the Hon Douglas Graham MP (Minister of Treaty Negotiations).

The Queen held an Order of New Zealand Investiture and later, with The Duke of Edinburgh, attended a Luncheon with members of the Order.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, accompanied by Her Excellency Dame Catherine Tizard, this afternoon received Maori Knights and Dames.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh later attended an Afternoon Party in the Garden of Government House.

His Royal Highness, President, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, this morning *attended a Board of Trustees* Meeting at the Education and Environment Centre, Botanic Gardens, Wellington.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, this evening attended a Dinner for the Board of Trustees at the Wellington Club.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 3: The Prince Edward, Chairman of the International Council of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this afternoon left RAF Northolt for Germany.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception for the Council of the Internationales Jugendprogramm followed by the Presentation of Awards ceremony at Schloss Zeil, Leutkirch.

Prince Edward was received by Seine Erlaucht Erich Erbgraf von Waldburg-Zeil.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 3: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Agricultural Society of England, today attended the British High Performance Horse Sale at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Olympic Association, this evening attended a Gala Dinner for the British Olympic Appeal at City Hall, Cardiff, South Glamorgan.

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 3: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall (Mr John James).

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Air Corps, received Major General Simon Lytle upon relinquishing his appointment as Director, and Brigadier Peter McQueen upon assuming the appointment.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon held a meeting to discuss architectural matters.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the Guards Parachute Association, this evening attended the Twentieth Reunion Dinner at Pirbright, Surrey.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, today visited Tyne and Wear and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear (*Colonel Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison*).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened Kaleidoscope, the *NSPCC/Barnardos Child Protection Partnership, in* Newcastle Road, Sunderland.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at a Gala Dinner in aid of the Society, held at the Mayfair Ballroom, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Lady Glenconner and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 3: The Duchess of Kent this morning visited Thompson Street Fire Station and Greater Manchester Fire Brigade Training Centre, Thompson Street, Manchester and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Bradford Timmins).

Her Royal Highness today opened the Wallness Children's Charity Magnetic Resonance Scanner, the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, Salford and this afternoon attended a Service of Dedication of the new Stations of the Cross, St Mary's Church, Mulberry Street, Manchester.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this evening attended the "Glories of the Keyboard" Festival, the Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, Manchester, Greater Manchester.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

Cordwainers' Company

Sir Hardy Amies presented medals, scholarships and bursaries at the Cordwainers' College annual awards ceremony held yesterday at the Law Society Hall. Mr Christopher King, Master of the Cordwainers' Company was the host.

Spectacle Makers' Company

The Lord Mayor has presented Mr Justin Scully of the Cardiff Institute of Higher Education with the Spectacle Makers' Company British Spectacle Frame Design Student Award.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs Luke Hallinan was christened John Lincoln at St Cedric's Church, Pendoylan, South Glamorgan. The godparents are Mr Ian Williams, Mr Richard Jones and Miss Helen Webber.

Royal engagements

Tomorrow: The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the British Youth Band Championships, will attend the championships at Wembley Arena at 7.00.

Trinity College of Music

Presentation Day
Sir Ron Dearing, CB, Hon FTCL, was guest of honour at the Presentation Day ceremony held yesterday at the Wigmore Hall at which Honorary Fellowship of Trinity College London was conferred upon Miss Ann Cherry, Miss Elizabeth Turnbull, Dr Bernarr Rainbow, Professor Graeme Davies and Mr William Lyne, MBE. The Lord Mayor of Westminster and Mr Paul Strang, Chairman of the Corporation of Trinity College of Music were amongst those present. Music by Judith Weir, Tippett, Daryl Runswick (a premiere). Bobby Lamb and Monteverdi was performed for the occasion.

Service dinners

Naval Club
Admiral Sir William Pillar presided at a dinner of the Naval Club and the RNVR Officers' Association held last night at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. General Sir Peter de la Billière was the principal guest.

The Queen's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry
Colonel E.C. York presided at a Regimental Officers' dinner of The Queen's Own Yorkshire Yeomanry held last night at the Grange Hotel, York.

The Royal Anglian Regiment
The Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, the Lord Lieutenant of Essex and the Master of the Poulters' Company were the principal guests at a dinner of The Royal Anglian Regiment held last night at the Army and Navy Club, Piccadilly. Major-General P.P.D. Stone, Colonel of Regiment, presided.

Royal Corps of Signals
Major-General A.C. Birtwistle, Master of Signals, was present at the annual dinner in Scotland of the Royal Corps of Signals held last night at the Western Club, Glasgow.

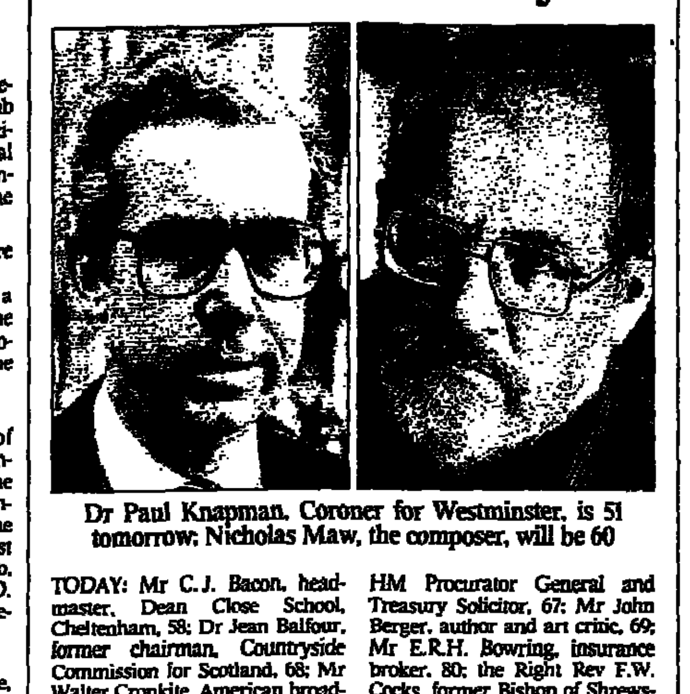
Fifth Indian Division
Major-General D.L. Burden, Director-General Army Manning and Recruitment, and Brigadier Rakesh Dhir, Military Adviser to the Indian High Commission, were the guests of honour at a luncheon of the Fifth Indian Division held yesterday in Paddington. Lieutenant-Colonel A.P. Harrington presided.

Dinners

Company of Merchant Adventurers of the City of York
Mr John Raylor, Governor of the Company of Merchant Adventurers of the City of York, presided at the annual venison feast held yesterday at Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York. The Junior Warden, Sir Derek Hornby, Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, and Judge Gerald Coles, QC, also spoke.

Sultan's Armed Forces Association
The annual dinner of the Sultan's Armed Forces Association was held on Friday, October 27, at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly. Among the guests were the Charge d'Affaires at the Oman Embassy and the Defence Attaché. Loyal Greetings were sent to the Sultan on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of his Accession. Colonel Nigel Knocker was in the chair.

Weekend birthdays



Dr Paul Knapman, Coroner for Westminster, is 51 tomorrow; Nicholas Maw, the composer, will be 60

TODAY: Mr C.J. Bacon, headmaster, Dean Close School, Cheltenham, 58; Dr Jean Balfour, former chairman, Countryside Commission for Scotland, 68; Mr Walter Cronkite, American broadcaster, 79; Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Cunningham, 74; the Earl of Denbigh and Desmond, 25; Lady Dugdale, a Lady-in-Waiting to The Queen, 72; Mr Russell Evans, company chairman, 73; Professor A.J. Forty, former Principal, Stirling University, 67; Mr R.A. Henderson, former chairman, Kleinwort Benson Group, 78; Viscount Hereford, 63; Mr Elgar Howarth, musician, 60; Professor Jeffrey Jowell, professor of public law, 57; Air Commodore Philippa Marshall, former director, WRAF, 75; Mr Michael Meacher, MP, 56; Professor Joseph Rotblat, physicist, 87; Air Commandant Dame Anne Stephens, former director, WRAF, 83.

TOMORROW: Mr R.W. Annand, VC, 81; Sir John Bailey, former HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor, 67; Mr John Berger, author and art critic, 69; Mr E.R.H. Bowring, insurance broker, 80; the Right Rev F.W. Cocks, former Bishop of Shrewsbury, 82; Mr Art Garfunkel, singer and composer, 54; General Sir John Hackett, 85; Mrs Caroline Jackson, MEP, 49; Professor Sir David Mason, former president, General Dental Council, 67; Mr John Morris, QC, MP, 64; Mr Lester Piggott, jockey and racehorse trainer, 60; Rear-Admiral Andrew Richmond, former executive director, RSPCA, 64; Mr Anthony Rolfe Johnson, tenor, 55; Mr Sam Shephard, actor, 52; Lord Stallard, 74; Sir William Stubbs, educationist, 58; Mr Eldred Tabachnik, QC, President, *Board of Deputies of British Jews*, 52; Mr Ned Temko, Editor, *Jewish Chronicle*, 43; Sir Anthony Tennant, chairman, Christies International, 65; the Earl of Yarborough, 32.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: King William III, reigned with Queen Mary II 1689-94 and after her death until 1702, The Hague, 1650; Augustus Toplady, clergyman and hymn writer, Farnham, Surrey, 1740.

DEATHS: John Benbow, admiral, died of his wounds, Port Royal, Jamaica, 1702; Felix Mendelssohn, composer, Leipzig, 1847; Paul Delaroche, painter, Paris, 1859; George Peabody, American philanthropist, London, 1869; Wilfred Owen, poet, killed in action, France, 1918; Gabriel Fauré, composer, Paris, 1924.

The Gunpowder Plot was discovered, 1605.

Nelson's Column was completed in Trafalgar Square, 1843.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Hans Sachs, poet and dramatist, Nüremberg, 1494; James Beattie, poet, Laurencekirk, Kincardine, 1735; Vivien Leigh, actress, Darjeeling, India, 1913.

DEATHS: Maurice Utrillo, painter, Le Vesinet, 1955; Mack Sennett, creator of the Keystone Cops films, Hollywood, 1960; Jacques Tati, actor and film director, 1982; Eamonn Andrews, broadcaster, London, 1987; Vladimir Horowitz, pianist, Manhattan, New York, 1989.

Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor, Egypt, 1922.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Canon Martin Baddeley, Joint Principal of the South East Institute for Theological Education, diocese Southwark, is to be Archdeacon of Reigate, same diocese, succeeding the Ven Peter Coombs who retired at the end of August.
The Rev Oliver Bayley, Rector, Bathampton w Claverton (Bath and Wells): to be Chaplain Dauntsey's School, West Lavington (Salisbury).
The Rev Harry Boreham, Vicar, Felixstowe Saints Peter and Paul (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be Priest-in-charge, Ramsgate St Mark (Canterbury).
The Rev Valerie Brechin, Curate, Ipswich, All Hallows (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be Priest-in-charge, Bottisham and Lode w Longmeadow (Ely).
The Rev Elizabeth Cummings: to be Chaplain of Stocken Prison, Rutland (Peterborough).
The Rev Canon Colin Day, Adviser for Mission and Evangelism in the diocese of Salisbury: to be Priest-in-charge, Branksome Park All Saints, and Diocesan Trainer in Evangelism, same diocese.

Conference

Atlantic Council
Lord Younger of Prestwick, President of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom, opened the third national conference held yesterday at the Assembly Rooms, Bath. The American Ambassador, Dr David Clark, MP, Mr Menzies Campbell, QC, MP, Lord Chalfont, Mr John Goulden, Mr Janez Jansa, Sir Richard Luce, Sir Patrick Duffy and Mr Alan Lee Williams also spoke.

New Zealand Golf Club

A dinner to celebrate the centenary of New Zealand Golf Club was held at the City of London Club on Thursday, November 2. The Right Hon the Lord Griffiths, MC, proposed the health of the Club.

Horris Hill Preparatory School

The Governors of Horris Hill Preparatory School, Newbury are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Nigel Chapman as Headmaster. Mr Chapman, at present Headmaster of Lockers Park School, Hemel Hempstead, takes up his new position in September 1996, following the retirement of Mr Malcolm Innes after 18 years as Headmaster at Horris Hill.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.J.F. de Salis and Miss S.M. Porter
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Major and Mrs Richard de Salis, of Owlesbury, Hampshire, and Sue, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.D. Porter, of Eastbourne, Sussex.

Mr C.H. Forward and Miss R. Botha
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Tony Forward, of Awbridge, Hampshire, and Rhiett, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hansmeyer, of Pongola, South Africa.

Mr M.M. Liley and Miss C.E. Ryan
The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs M. Liley, of Langport, Somerset, and Clare Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs N.B. Ryan, of West Coker, Yeovil, Somerset.

Mr A.J. Moffat and Miss C.D. Keen
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs T.M. Moffat, of Melbourne, Australia, and Carole, daughter of the late Mr David Keen and of Mrs Louise Keen, of London.

Mr A.N. Pearse and Miss C.F. Lucas
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Dr and Mrs Lawrence Pearse, of Cheltenham, and Claire, daughter of Mr and *Mrs Roger Lucas*, of Crawcrook, Northumberland.

Mr T.A. Sanders and Mrs M.M. Osmond
The engagement is announced between Mr Timothy Aleyne Sanders, OBE, of Pimlico, London, SW1, elder son of Lieutenant Colonel M.A. Sanders, of King's Nympton, Devon and the late Mrs B.Y. Sanders, and Marti Maria Osmond, née Rujsz, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr D.B. Turner and Miss B.J. Collyer
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Sir Michael Turner, of Hinton St Mary, Dorset, and Lady Turner, of Maidford, Northamptonshire, and Bridget, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Andrew Collyer, of Organford, Dorset.

Marriages

The Hon Ralph Hely Hutchinson and Miss C.D. Rylance
The marriage took place yesterday in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster, of the Hon Ralph Hely Hutchinson, youngest son of the Earl and Countess of Donoughmore, of Bampton, Oxfordshire, to Miss Caroline Rylance, only daughter of Mr John Rylance and of Mrs Colette Davis, of Shiplake, Oxfordshire. Canon Donald Gray officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Mark Rylance, was attended by George Reynolds, Thomas Beeley, the Hon Tatiana Hely Hutchinson, Flora Hely Hutchinson and Seamus Hely Hutchinson. The Hon Thomas Brigstocke was best man.

A reception was held at the Berkeley Hotel and the honeymoon will be spent in the Far East.

Mr M.G. Dougal and Mrs B.J.C. Pritchard
The marriage took place on September 30, of Mr Malcolm Dougal, HMCG San Francisco, to Mrs Brigid Pritchard, *née* Turner, of Monk Sherborne, Hampshire.

Mr Kothandaraman and Miss S.E. Tapply
The marriage took place quietly in Edinburgh, on October 26, of Mr Kothandaraman, younger son of Mr and Mrs Sambandam, of Madras, and Susan *Elizabeth*, only daughter of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs R.M. Tapply, of Ardfenaig, Isle of Mull.

Carpenters' Company

Mr M.R. Francis, Master of the Carpenters' Company, has presented the company's awards for 1995 to the following projects:

The Premier award for a major project to Glyndebourne Opera House — Auditorium.
The Highly Commended award for a major project to News House, London SW1.
The Premier award for a smaller project to a summer fishing hut in Dorset.
The Highly Commended award for a smaller project to the reception and issue desk at Somerville College, Oxford.
The English Heritage award for conservation of Woodwork to Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, Epping Forest.
The TRADA Structural Timber award to the Welsh Wildlife Centre, Cardigan.

Founders' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Founders' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr Robert J.W.L. Stevens; Upper Warden, Mr Robert O. Lightfoot; Under Warden, Mr William G. Fossick.

Church services tomorrow

Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 SE. Phrygian Mode (Wood). O quam gloriosum (Victoria). The Provost; 6.30 ES. Cantate Domino (Pitoni). Responses (Radcliffe). Dyson in F. O how glorious (Harwood). The Provost.
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch. Lord for thy tender mercies sake (Hilton/Ferrabosco). Darke in F. The truth from above (Vaughan Williams); 3.30 Remembrance service. Preces (Neary). Coll Reg (Wood). A Gaelic Blessing (Rutter).
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch. Sumsion in F. Within the vale (M Huxley). Ave verum (Elgar). Rev Canon D Collyer; 4 Choral E. Responses (Shephard). Holman in F minor. Out of the deep (Morley).
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M. O sing joyfully (Batten); 10.30 Euch. Wood in the Phrygian Mode. Canon M Taylor; 4 Choral E. The Lord at first did Adam make (Ferguson). Canon K Parfitt.
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch. Christe Eleison (Victoria). Missa Brevis (Carter). Panis Angelicus (Franck). Canon P Johnson; 3.30 Choral E. Oculi Omnium (Wood). Responses (Ayleward). Brewer in D. Prayer to Jesus (Oldroyd). Canon J Simpson.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch. Vaughan Williams in G minor. Holy is the true light (Harris), the Archdeacon; 3.15 E. Responses (Rose). Stanford in A. Let their celestial concerts (Handel); 6.30 Compline, the Rev Dr M Chandler.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch. O quam gloriosum (Victoria). Canon D Weston; 3 E. Responses (Byrd). Purcell in G minor. O how glorious (Harwood).
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch. Canon J Brown; 11.15 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Seiber). Call to remembrance (Farrant). Canon B Thompson; 6 Choral E. Responses (Ebdon). Fourth Service (Batten). Out of the deep (Morley). Canon D Knight.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M. Boyce in C. Turn thy face from my sins (Attwood). Responses (Sumsion). Rev Canon D Landreth; 11 S Euch. Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina). Tantum ergo (Duruflé). The Chancellor; 3.30 E. Responses (Smith). Noble in B minor. And I saw a new heaven (Bainton).
CLIFTON CATHEDRAL: 8, 6 M; 9.30 Family M; 11 SM. Missa Brevis (Palestrina). O salutaris Hostia (Nicholson).
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch. *Stanford in C & E. Lord for thy tender* mercy's sake (Hilton). Give us the wings of faith (Bullock). Canon P Oestreicher; 3 Betty Simpson Celebration; 5.30 E & Procession. Responses (Rose). St Matthew's service (Wright). O how glorious (Harwood).
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.15 HC. *Darke in F. Le banquet celeste* (Messiaen). the *Dean*; 10 M. Responses (Rose). Boyce in C. O praise the Lord (Batten). Canon D Hodgson; 3.30 E. Stanford in C. Beati quorum via integra est (Stanford).
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Harwood in A flat. Jubilate in B flat (Walton). Wash me throughly (Wesley). The Precentor; 3.45 E. Preces (Howells). Harwood in A flat. For lo I raise up (Stanford).
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch. Ireland in C. Ave verum corpus (Elgar). Ven A Tremlett; 11.15 M. Responses (Shephard). Te Deum (Vaughan Williams in G). Beati quorum via (Stanford); 3 E. Responses (Shephard). Wise in E flat. I beheld and lo a great multitude (Blow); 6.30 E. We have heard with our ears (Howells), the Priest Vicar.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch. O quam gloriosum est regnum (Victoria). Holy is the true light (Harris), the Archdeacon; 4 Choral E. First Service (Tomkins). O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Blow). Responses (Rose). Canon K Court.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Sumsion in F. Ave verum (Byrd). Beati quorum via (Stanford). the Precentor; 3.30 E. Responses (Rose). Coll Reg (Howells). Evening Hymn (Balfour Gardiner).
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8. 12.30 HC; 9.30 Family. God be in my head (Walford Davies). The Precentor; 11.15 S Requiem. Requiem Op 9 (Duruflé). The Subdean; 4 E. Coll Reg (Howells). Responses (Reading).
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch. Missa Brevis (Palestrina). Canon M Boyling; 3 E. Murrill in E. Canon M Wolfe; 4 HC.
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 12.15 H Euch; Rev N J Court; 9 Parish Euch, *the Dean*; 11 S Euch. Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart). Mr A Hywell Morgan; 3.30 Choral E. O where shall wisdom be found (Boyce); 6.30 E. Mrs E Harris.
NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC. Canon I Bennett; 9.30 S Euch, the Provost. Missa Brevis (Britten). Panis angelicus (Franck). Canon I Bennett; 6 Choral E. Responses (Bullock). *Naylor in D. Salve Regina* (Francesco Cavalli).
NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Family Euch. Christ whose glory fills the skies (Shephard); 6.30 E. Walmisley *in D minor*, Where shall wisdom be found (Boyce).
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 *HC*; 10 Euch. Mass of St Thomas (Thorne). Tantum ergo (Duruflé). V Rev H Dickinson; 11.30 M. Responses (Smith). Short Service (Gibbons). Jubilate (Tomkins). Awake us Lord and hasten (Bach). Rev A Philp; 3 E. Responses (Smith). Stanford in G. Hail gladdening light (Wood).
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 MP; 9.30 C; 11 Euch. Canon J Sinclair; 6.30 E & Sermon, the Ven S Lowe.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Euch. Missa cum jubilo (Plainsong). Missa Brevis/*The Lord is my shepherd* (Berkeley). Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow). Rev Canon D Atkinson; 3 Choral E. Coll Reg (Howells). The Spirit of the Lord (Elgar). *Rev Canon R White.*
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M. the Bishop; 10 S Euch. God so loved the world (Stainer). Coronation Mass (Mozart). the Bishop; 11.30 Royal British Legion Remembrance; 6 E. Responses (Rose). Brewer in B flat. There is an old belief (Parry), the Librarian.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Palestrina). Ven R Acworth; 11.30 M. Short Service (Gibbons). O most merciful (Bullock); 3 E. Coll Magdalenae Oxoniense (Leighton). Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley). Rev Preb N Kent.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M. Stanford in B flat. Justorum animae (Stanford). Canon D Gray; 11.15 Euch. Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria). Gauden in coelis (Dering). O quam gloriosum (Victoria). Canon C Semper; 3 E. Darke in F. Alleluia I heard a voice (Weelkes). V Rev Prof R Barbour; 6.30 ES. Canon D Hutt.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10.30 SM. Asperges Me (Plainsong). Setting (Tye). Euge bone. Ave vergo sanctissima (Guerrero); 3.30 V&B. Magnificat octavi (Morales). Tantum ergo (Reger).
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M. Responses (Ayleward). Benedictus (Fauxbourdons). Jesu joy of man's desiring. Rev C Stewart; 11.30 Euch. Coronation Mass/Ave verum corpus/ Adagio & Allegro in *F minor & Major* (Mozart); 3.30 E. Service in 5 parts (Weelkes). I beheld and lo a great multitude. Rev D Scott.
YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch. Thee we adore (Plainsong). Missa brevis in F (Mozart). Rev Canon R Metcalfe; 11.30 M. Stanford in A. Responses (Moore); 4 E. Wood in G. Greater Love (Ireland). V Rev R Furnell.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch. Stanford in B flat. O taste & see (Vaughan Williams); 3.30 Choral E. Watson in E. Responses (Statham). Give us the wings of faith (Bullock).
ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Dyfed: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, the Succentor; 11.15 Choral M. Stanford in B flat. Pray that Jerusalem (Stanford). The Canon; 6 Choral E. Before the ending of the day (Plainsong). Wood in E flat. Justorum animae (Stanford). The Dean.
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL,
Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM. Rorate Coeli (Haydn). Ave verum (John Gyeanty). Rev Canon J Pannett.
ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 MS & HC. Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams). Rev C Kenny; 11.30 MS. Mass in D (Dvorak); 8 ES. Rev S Mitchell.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch. The Leroy Kyrie (Taverner). Missa Euge bone (Tye). O salutaris hostia (Tallis). Rev C Hill; 3.15 E. The Gloucester Service (Howells). Responses (Leighton). How lovely is thy dwelling place (Brahms). V Rev M Sadgrove.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM. Mass in C (Schubert). Justorum animae (Byrd). Rt Rev S Phipps; 6 E&B. Stanford in A. Rev Canon F Hawkins.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11 Rev S Wookey; 6.30, Rev Preb R Bewes.
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11, Missa o quam gloriosum (Vittoria). Domine fac mecum (Morley). O quam gloriosum (Marenzio).
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday service; 11 Sunday School.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30, Rev S Hood; 12.20 HC.
FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass. Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina). O sacrum convivium (Victoria), 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B. O sacrum convivium (Salazar).
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 MP. Archbishop Y Gizirian.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS. *Rev P Hulme.*
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC; 2 Swahili HC. Br J Anthony; 7 Choral M. Requiem Mass (Rutter). Rev P Schmiege.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch. Missa pro defunctis (Anerio). O Jesu Christe (van Berchem). The Rector; 6.30 Choral E. Walmisley in D minor. O Lord the maker of all thing (Mundy), the Rector.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral Euch & Baptism. Jubilate (Walton). Ireland in C. Ave Jesu Christe (Phillips). Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E. Responses (Byrd). Jackson in G. Te lucius *ante terminum* (Tallis). Canon J Oates.
ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch. *Communion Service in C* (Ireland). Iustroum animae (Byrd). Rev P Bishop.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM. Mass (Plainsong).
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch. Mozart in C. May the soul of the righteous (Murrill). Rev G Watkins.
ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch. John Paul, Rector.
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 10.30 S Euch. Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina). Andivi Vocem (Tallis); 6 E. Fauxbourdons (Byrd). Let us know (and (Mundy).
ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family C. Trumpet Minuet (Hollis). Rev M Holmden; 6.30 EP. Rev J Richardson.
ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Missa Simile est regnum (Victoria). Ubi caritas (Duruflé). Rev D Watson; 6.30 E. Responses (Morley). O Lord in thy wrath (Gibbons). Rev G Beauchamp.
ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch. Schubert in G. How glorious is the kingdom (Ireland). Rev J Yates.
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch. Missa brevis in C (Mozart). The Lord is My Shepherd (Schubert). Rev R Holloway.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC. Rev W Ratchford; 9.45 S Euch. St Martin's Service (Stringer). *Wash me throughly* (Wesley). O salutaris hostia (Rossini). Rev B Schunemann; 11.30 Visitors. Responses (Smith). Coll reg (Howells). Adam lay ybounden (Ord), the Vicar; 2.45 Chinese. Rev P Leung; 5 Choral E. Responses (Ayleward). Short Service (Byrd). Lord let me know mine end (Greene); 6.30 ES. Fr Jozo of Medjugorje, Bosnia.
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH,
Kensington W8: 9.30 Euch, the Vicar; 11.15 Choral M. The Vicar; 6.30 E. Rev F Geill.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM. Missa Iste confessor (Palestrina). Fr B Scott; 6 E&B.
ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch. Missa nunc ecce benedicite (Lassus). God so loved the world (Stainer). Rev Dr P Baker; 6 Choral E. Dyson in D. Evening Humn (Balfour Gardiner).
ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch. Missa solemnis K337 (Mozart). I will fill this house with glory (Susi Laurel); 6.30 Ministry of Healing. Rev C Owen.
ST PAUL'S, *Wilton Place*, SW1: 8, 9 *HC*; 11 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Palestrina). Jehova (Purcell). *If ye love me* (Tallis). Rev N Dawson.
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM. Missa Brevis (Anerio). Justorum animae (Byrd). exultate Justi (Viadana). Canon C Colven.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC. Canon J G M W Murphy; 11 M & Sermon. Responses (Morley). Short Service (Gibbons). O God thou are my God (Purcell). Rev G Elmore.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch. Mass in Five Parts (Byrd). Canon D H Wheaton.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 Choral Euch. Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina). *Let all mortal flesh keep* silence (Bairstow); 3.30 E. O Lord the Maker (Mundy). *Responses* (Tunnard). Brewer in D. O where shall wisdom be found (Boyce).
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch. Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria). O quam gloriosum (Victoria). Rev A Meldrum.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch. Coll Reg (Darke in E). The Chaplain.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP. *Responses* (Radcliffe). Mathias in C. Jubilate Deo (William Walton). The Master.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Choral HC. O Jesu blessed Lord (Reinigius). Messe Solonelle (Gounod). Jesu the very thought is sweet (Cantiones). Rev J Cook.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL,
Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch (BCP). Ireland in C. Not unto us O Lord (Walmisley). Rev C French.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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Jesus said: "Truly I tell you, unless you turn round and become like children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 18 : 3 (REB)

BIRTHS

BEST - See Willatt.

BROCKET - On 27th October 1995, in Leuven, Belgium, to Jane (née Stringer) and Simon, a daughter, Phoebe Kate, a sister for Thomas and Alice.

BURNETT-STUART - On 27th October, to Jessica (née Matheson) and Geordie, a son, Robert Alexander, brother to Miranda and Matthew.

D'ARCY - On October 17th 1995, to Sarah (née Dale) and Julian, a son, James William.

HALL - On November 2nd at Wellington Hospital, to Arthur and Freda-Ann, a long awaited baby boy, Ivan Arthur.

HILEY - On October 28th, to Camilla (née Weatherby) and William, a daughter, Tara.

IGGLESDEN - On October 31st at The Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Charles and Sylvia (née Marrin), a son, James Patrick Marrin, a brother to Michael and Thomas.

LAWRENCE - On 30th October 1995, to Tracey (née Melbourne) and Tim, a beautiful daughter, Nina Dawn, 8lbs 14oz. Thanks to all at Lincoln Maternity Unit.

RIFAT - On October 28th 1995, to Erica (Clark) and Julian, a daughter, Florence Scarlett.

WARNER - On October 22nd, to Janet (née Dawson) and Richard, a serene baby girl, Harriet (Hattie). With thanks to all at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

WILLATT - On November 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Clare (née Best) and Philip, a son, Frederick Charles Michael.

BIRTHS

WRIGHT - On 1st November, to Michael and Ursula (née Calver), a son, Charles Jonathan Peter, a brother for Alexander, Olivia and Camilla.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

WILSON:WESTON - On November 4th 1945 at the Nicholaikirche, Luneburg. Jim to Molly.

DEATHS

CLARK - Leonard. Mrs Clark and son Roger, regret to announce the death of husband and father on November 1st, retired in Majorca for 10 years. Funeral Monday 6th November at 8 am (in Majorca). Enquiries tel: (003471) 533 086.

COUSSINS - Hilda (née Pearce) peacefully on Friday 3rd November. Beloved wife of the late Harry, much loved mother of Sally and Alison and adored grandmother of James, Sarah and William. Sadly missed by Noel, Sarah and Liam. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to RNLI.

DARLING - Sir James Ralph, CMG, OBE on November 1st, 1995. Beloved husband of Margaret, and dearly loved father of Jane, Elizabeth, Caroline, and John. Following a private family funeral, a memorial service will be held at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, Australia on Thursday November 30th, 1995 at 2.30 pm. A memorial service will be held at the Chapel of All Saints, Geelong Grammar School, Corio Australia, at a date to be announced.

DEATHS

DAVIES - Joseph Thomas, much loved Priest; otherwise known as Father Aquinas, died peacefully in hospital on 27th October 1995 in his 62nd year. Funeral strictly private, followed by cremation. Please note that Memorial Services to celebrate and give thanks for his life will be held at Foxearth Church, near Sudbury, Suffolk, on Saturday 18th November 1995 at 11 am and at St Barnabas, Bethnal Green at the crossing of Grove and Roman Roads, E3, on Saturday 2nd December 1995 at 12 noon.

DUMARESQ - R.H.J. on October 29th 1995 after a short illness, Richard (Dick), eldest son of the late Rear Admiral J.S. Dumaresq and the late Mrs Dumaresq. A much loved brother of Anne, Peronelle, Martin (deceased) and Lucia. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium Main Chapel on Wednesday November 15th at 1.45 pm. Family flowers only. Donations in his memory to The British Heart Foundation c/o Adela Funeral Home, 45 South Street, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

EDWARDS - Major Evan Kendrick, peacefully on 2nd November, 1995, aged 83. Beloved and loving husband of Sylvia, and a dear father and grandfather. Funeral Service in Meole Brace Church, Shrewsbury, on Friday, 10th November at 12.30 pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to be shared between: Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research, R.N.L.I. and The Salvation Army. Enquiries: (01743) 344646.

DEATHS

ENRIGHT - On 31st October 1995, Derek Anthony. Requiem Mass on Monday 6th November at Westminster Cathedral at 1.05 pm. No flowers please, but donations may be sent to Global Partnership, PO Box 1001, London SE24 9LA.

FERRIER - Winifred Margaret of Mary Fielding Guild, Highgate and Eastside House, Temple Fortune and formerly of Ulstercourt, Kingston-upon-Thames, on November 1st in her 92nd year in loving care at Whittington Hospital. Sister of the late Kathleen Ferrier Contralto to the memory of whose artistry, particularly in its example to young singers, she devoted so much of her indomitable spirit, energy, grace and humility. Funeral Service on Friday 10th November at Golders Green Crematorium at 2 pm. No flowers, please, but donations if desired to the Kathleen Ferrier Chair of Clinical Oncology and made payable to "University College, London" c/o Prof. Souhami, The Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AA.

HENRY - Mary Gwendolen Nicol, CBE. On October 31st at St Pancras Hospital, dear sister of Richard, Leslie, Henry and Hector. Born April 10th 1912, formerly Registrar of The General Nursing Council of England and Wales. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, NW11 at noon. No flowers by request. Donations may be sent to The 1930 Fund for District Nurses, 1a Winders Road, SW11 3HE.

DEATHS

HERAPATH - On 31st October 1995 Yvonne (née Shenton), widow of Spencer, died in her home at Yarmouth, IOW, aged 81. Small family service at Whippingham Crematorium, followed on 28th November by a Memorial Service at 2.30 pm at St James's Church, Yarmouth. Family flowers only, if desired a donation to Marie Curie IOW Fund c/o Judy Gillow, Whitecroft Hospital, Sandy Lane, Newport, IOW.

HOLMES - Dr John C. S. On November 3rd, beloved husband of Rolla, father of Roger and Julian. Funeral at Glynn Valley Crematorium nr. Bodmin, 2 pm Friday November 10th. Donations please to British Heart Foundation, 1, Tremeddan Court, Liskeard, Cornwall.

HOOPER - David Frederick suddenly on 1st November 1995 at home aged 46. Sadly missed by Gay and Samantha. Funeral Service at St Mary's, West Malling, on Thursday 9th November at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to "The Kent Air Ambulance" c/o Viner & Sons Ltd., 64 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6LU.

KNOWLES - On November 2nd 1995, peacefully after a long illness, Sidney Francis (Frank) aged 80, of Denton, Newhaven. Formerly of East Grinstead and Lewes. Dearly loved husband of Pat and a much loved father and grandfather. Service at Seaford Baptist Church on Wednesday November 8th at 11.30 am. Enquiries c/o Lee Goucher Seaford and Newhaven Funeral Service, tel: (01323) 893899.

DEATHS

LUCAS - Peacefully at Moreton-in-Marsh Hospital on October 30th 1995, Ronald Jasper, aged 83 years, of Weston Subedge, Glos. The funeral service has taken place. Donations, if desired, for Moreton District Hospital c/o Philip Tomlins, Funeral Directors, 36 The Leys, Evesham, Worcs., WR11 5AP.

PARKER - David A.B. (né Pecker) peacefully in the Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice, on October 31st 1995, aged 49 years. Beloved husband of Liz, loving father of Laurence, Charles and Rosalind. Funeral Service at St Laurence's Church, Church Stretton, on Wednesday November 8th at 2 pm, followed by interment at Greenhills Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice. Enquiries to A.S. Morris & Son, Funeral Directors, Church Stretton, tel: (01694) 722676.

RAMSEY-GLITHERO - On November 1st 1995, Bill, of Hove, Sussex, died aged 49 years. Funeral details or any enquiries c/o Christopher Stringer Funeral Services, Rottingdean, Sussex, tel: (01273) 306000.

ROWLANDS - Bessie. Peacefully on 31st October, deeply loved by her family and friends. Funeral Friday 10th November 12 noon at Mortlake Crematorium, afterwards to 12 River House, The Terrace, Barnes. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Save the Children.

DEATHS

SHAWE-TAYLOR - Desmond Christopher unexpectedly at home on November 1st, aged 88. Funeral Service at Poole Crematorium on Friday 10th November at 3.30 pm. No flowers please. A memorial gathering in London to be announced.

THOM - John Robert Dorian (Ian), suddenly but peacefully at home on 2nd November 1995. Eldest son of the late Captain William Dorian and Margaret (Peggy) Stevenson Thom, loved brother of David, Helen, Sue (USA) and Derek (deceased), a dear uncle and great-uncle, cousin of Kathleen and best friend of Edgar Davies. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday 8th November at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, to a charity of your choice.

TIMNEY - W. Gordon Timney, died peacefully at Mitchells, on Thursday 2nd November 1995 aged 78 years. Much loved by Dora, Margaret, Roger and all the family. Funeral Service at Cambridge City Crematorium West Chapel on Wednesday 8th November at 3 pm. No flowers please.

WARDE-ALDAM - Major Julian on 3rd November, loved and loving husband of Virginia and father of Jamie, Tom and Kate. Private funeral. Memorial Service to be announced.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HEAD - John. A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, 5th December at 11 am in Southwark Cathedral to be followed by a reception at Glaziers Hall, Montague Street, SE1.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

BEALE - Harold Derryck. Happy memories on his birthday, November 4th, remembered with much love every day. Muriel, Angela and John.

DRAKE - Molly, remembered always with love, especially tomorrow her birthday. Also her beloved husband Rodney and son Nick.

FARRAH - Dear Susie, all our love on your birthday, 5th November, as ever. Mum, Rosie and family and Robert.

SPIVEY - Julia, died November 4th 1994 aged 55 years. Loved and remembered always.

THORPE - Lewis (1913-1977): Teacher and Arthurian scholar, remembered with love and gratitude.

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OBITUARIES

SIR ANDREW CRICHTON

Sir Andrew Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, shipping industrialist, died on October 29 aged 84. He was born on December 28, 1910.



ANDREW CRICHTON (he truncated his triple-barrelled name for daily use) was a leader of the container revolution which transformed the shipping industry 30 years ago. As chairman of Overseas Containers Limited (OCL), the consortium set up by four of Britain's main shipping firms, he helped to develop the operating strategy and the equipment which brought huge savings in manpower costs and time. Although his eight years at OCL might be seen as the pinnacle of his career, Crichton's was already a well-known name, not only within his own industry but in other areas of public life.

He went to head the consortium in 1965 from being joint managing director of The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O), one of the four firms in OCL, and with whom he had spent the best part of his career. (OCL is, in fact, now P&O Containers, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the company.)

He was best known to the general public, however, through his seven years, 1958-65, as a colourful, independently-minded chairman of the National Association of Port Employers. In 1962 he incurred the wrath of senior Conservatives, notably of Iain Macleod, then chairman of the party, for allegedly sabotaging the Government's pay pause by backing the dockers in a pay dispute. He said that they had waited for 22 months for an increase and had been working the same hours since 1919.

Two years later, however, "The Admirable Crichton", as he had been christened by the dock workers, was equally censorious of them when they turned down another pay offer and went on strike.

His friendship with Tim O'Leary, the dockers' leader, and particularly with Frank Cousins, then general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, reflected his aversion to the traditional politics of confrontations between owners and employees. But he did not mince words when he felt aggrieved and in 1960 described 1,660 Port of London tally clerks who went on a long unofficial strike as "about as selfish a set of men as it would be conceivable to find in the whole of Britain".

Crichton, whose work with the port employers brought him his knighthood in 1963, liked to point out that he had started on the bottom rung of the ladder as a £1-a-week messenger boy with the shipping agents Grey Dawes. But while this might have been technically correct, he got the job through his father's close friendship with the shipping executive Sir William Currie — later to become chairman of P&O — and his background was thus not entirely disadvantaged.

Born near Hereford as Andrew Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, he was the eldest son of a lieutenant-colonel in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders who had spent much of his own career in British India. The family's lineage was completely Scottish and impressive. The "Maitland" reflected their kinship to the earls of Lauderdale and the "Makgill" their descent from a family of large landowners in Fife, while a "Crichton" forebear had been Chancellor to Mary Queen of Scots.

As the eldest son, Andrew was sent to the military public school Wellington College with a view to his following his father into the Cameron Highlanders. But he took neither to Wellington nor to the prospect of an army career and from an early age showed an aptitude for business.

Two years after joining Grey Dawes in 1929 at the age of 18, he transferred to Mackinnon Mackenzie who were shipping agents throughout India and the Far East and belonged to the P&O Group. Originally destined for their office in Calcutta, Crichton was switched at the last moment to Colombo in what was then Ceylon, moving to Bombay shortly before the Second World War.

Commissioned into the 1st Punjabi Regiment when war broke out, Crichton's background as a rising young shipping executive earned him almost immediate secondment to the Army's headquarters in Delhi as deputy director of movements (shipping) with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He served throughout the war in that capacity, organising the movements of troop ships and military cargo in and out of Indian ports.

He returned to Mackinnon Mackenzie after the war and set up an office for them in Delhi before being recalled to London by P&O in 1948 to work as a general manager in headquarters, concentrating on the freight side of the business. He later became one of several managing directors at that time until taking over at OCL in 1965, finally retiring from there in 1973, while remaining a non-executive director for eight more years.

In 1967 he accepted the additional job of vice-chairman of the Port of London Authority, concentrating on the shipping side of the business while also deputising for the chairman, Lord Aldington. He was also vice-chairman of the British Transport Docks Board and of the economic development committee of the Post Office.

He was at one time or another a director of Butler's Warehousing and Distribution, the Standard Charter Group, Inchcape Insurance Holdings and the London Tin Corporation, and a member of the Baltic Exchange, the National Freight Corporation, the Police Council and the Industrial Arbitration Board.

Crichton was not only an extremely able shipping executive but was also a well-liked one, who appreciated good food and wine and enjoyed making people laugh. His robust, outspoken manner made him popular with the press and his news conferences were lively occasions — punctuated by Crichton's well-honed tales and anecdotes. But he could also be tough and did not go through life without upsetting some people.

Off-duty he relaxed by walking — preferably around a golf course — listening to classical music and adding to his collection of Impressionist paintings. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and also of the Chartered Institute of Transport and was a freeman of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen.

He married his wife Isabel in 1948. An Australian from Sydney, New South Wales, she had been widowed in India during the war when her husband had been blown up in an explosion in a ship in Bombay harbour.

Andrew Crichton is survived by her. They had no children.

ALAN BUSH

Alan Bush, composer and Professor of Composition at the Royal Academy of Music, 1925-78, died on October 31 aged 94. He was born on December 22, 1900.

OF ALL the "isms" that can be hung around the neck of a composer none has been more oppressive than the label of Marxism. Alan Bush had joined the Communist Party in 1934 and probably knew as much about Marxism as anyone in Britain. Philosophy, beside music, had been a lifetime's study. But he innocently accepted Marxism's corruption by the oppressive regimes of Eastern Europe. And by his choice of radical texts and titles, so easily mocked, he perhaps drew attention away from the high quality of the music itself.

Despite the evident enthusiasm for his work of critics as severe as Hans Keller or fellow composers such as Michael Tippett and William Alwyn, the wider audience of "the people", for whom as a Marxist he wrote, was rarely given the chance to experience his music. An opera such as his *Wat Tyler* of 1951, though eminently English in its appeal, was given its first stage performance in Leipzig in East Germany.

Alan Bush was born in London. His outstanding gifts as a pianist took him to the Royal Academy of Music, where he studied composition with Frederick Corder, and the piano with Tobias Matthay.

Many composers come to music through the piano, but touch it only in the privacy of their workroom; Bush, like Bartók and Britten, relished his skill — he even seemed to enjoy a daily workout of studies and scales. His Opus 1 and his earliest published composition was a set of three pieces for two pianos, followed in the same year by his Piano Sonata in B minor. Several chamber works followed, culminating in what some still regard as his finest abstract piece, *Dialectic* for String Quartet, completed in 1929 but not performed until 1935.

In 1929 he enrolled as a student in the philosophy department of Berlin University, where in two years he mastered not only the German language, but also developed the analytical skill which could delight or dismay his students. But his fingers were still active — he gave a demanding solo recital at the Berlin Singakademie in 1931.

On his return to England, Bush threw himself into organising and conducting popular choral concerts. In 1936 he took a leading part in the foundation, and as its first president, in the running of the Workers Music Association. In 1938 when his Piano Concerto with a rousing choral finale was premiered by the BBC, the conductor, the highly traditionalist Adrian Boult, cut short the applause by playing the national anthem.



During the war Bush served as a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps, but this did not save him from having his works banned by the BBC in the early part of the war because of his communist sympathies. (This was at the time when the Nazi-Soviet Pact had not yet been shattered by the German invasion of Russia.) When Bush pointed out to a BBC official that the works of enemy composers such as Richard Strauss had not suffered the same fate, he was told that Strauss was not being paid by the BBC.

After the war Bush began to simplify his style in an attempt to reach out to a wider audience. Many of his choral works were set to radical texts, but none is more touching than his Christmas Cantata, *The Winter Journey* (1946), for soloists, chorus and chamber ensemble.

Bush's first symphony was completed in 1940, the second, a commission from the City of Nottingham in 1949, and his third, with a choral finale dedicated to the memory of Byron, in 1960. There is also a fine violin concerto and other works for string as well as full orchestra.

But Bush's major contribution was as an opera composer, with his wife Nancy (née Head) as librettist. His first full opera, *Wat Tyler*, was one of four prizewinners in the competition arranged by the Arts Council for the Festival of Britain in 1951. It was broadcast in a recorded performance from East Berlin in 1952 and first staged in 1953 in Leipzig where it had 14 performances. It was done in Rostock in 1955, but it was not until 1974 that it had its first professional production in England, at Sadler's Wells.

Bush received three more commissions from Leipzig, but only one of these, *The Men of Blackmoor*, was ever staged in England where it received a production by the Oxford University Opera Club in 1961 (it had been first produced at Weimar in 1956). *The Ferryman's Daughter* (1964) was for schools; *The Sugar Reapers* was done in Leipzig in 1966; and *Joe Hill* (*The Man Who Never Died*) was staged in Berlin in 1970.

As a teacher he was firm in conviction, consistent in style, clear and logical in thought, direct in expression, and warm in feeling, as generations of students who passed through his hands would attest. Bush had an ear for lyric beauty, and a feel for drama that make his operas powerful experiences. But he had to contend with an apathetic music establishment, as well as hostility to his passionately held beliefs. In the postwar years, when he might have benefited from the great expansion of musical life, the rise of a radical avant-garde kept out Bush and his like, still committed to a more traditional aesthetic.

Bush's wife Nancy died in 1991 and one of his three daughters also predeceased him. He is survived by the other two.

PHIL SIDEY

Philip John Sidey, broadcasting executive, died on October 15 aged 69. He was born on January 11, 1926.



IN BROADCASTING Phil Sidey always did it first. He knocked the stuffiness out of the wireless by the simple act of handing over BBC Radio Leeds to its listeners. In Birmingham he brought a new informality to television by breaching the artery-hardened schedules with the sprawling wonder of *Pebble Mill at One* and, when he died last month on a walking holiday in the Derbyshire Peak district, he was planning to bring a new intelligence to commercial local radio.

In the bid document he helped to write as chairman of the consortium bidding for a new station in Stratford-upon-Avon (and which is currently being considered by the Radio Authority), his prime objective is listed as "to always be aware of the listeners' inherent right to be heard". That would have brought him full circle from his days as the pioneering manager of Radio Leeds.

He had arrived in the North in 1967 with, for those parts, a suspect history of journalistic and broadcasting correctness. Ex-Army Broadcasting (for the occupation troops in Carinthia), local newspapers, a national news agency and the BBC's External Services were the milestones in a conventional CV that obviously impressed London as belonging to a safe pair of hands.

The mandarins got him wrong. Once out of the metropolitan straitjacket, he listened to the locals and clearly liked what he heard. He had been told the new station was part of a two-year experiment and he took the proposition at face value by abandoning all the stuffier norms of the old BBC.

His Radio Leeds was totally idiosyncratic and the people clearly appreciated it. He had given them their own voice and allowed them to say exactly what they felt.

He exploited the penny-pinching, derisory budget of £50,000 a year by creating *The Only BBC Programme That Money Can Buy*. For a donation to their favourite charity, listeners were allowed to phone in and have the freedom of the airwaves to ride their particular hobby horses.

His three years in Leeds generated much excitement in the North and as much angst in London. He left local radio abruptly, not because he had tired of it but because the hierarchy denied him what was then regarded as the plum post — running the new Radio London.

The corporation paid for its timidity. While the wild man languished in Television Centre (as deputy editor of *Nationwide*), its flagship radio station hit the rocks and has never really recovered.

In 1972 he went north again but this time only as far as Birmingham, where he became head of the network production centre at Pebble Mill. Never one to be content with moving the furniture, he ignored the television conventions and overcame the shortage of studio time by making programmes in corridors, on the roof and, especially in the now-famous glass-fronted foyer of what, until then, had been regarded as an expensive white elephant.

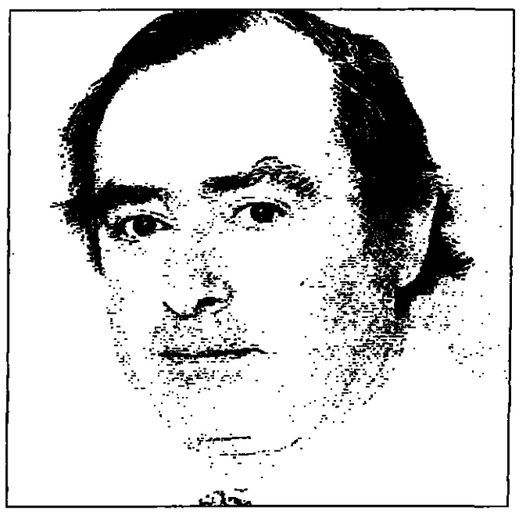
In a parody of *Pebble Mill at One*, a staff Christmas revue was also staged in the foyer and called *Pebble Mill at Sixes and Sevens*. The highlight was a car crashing through the front door (which had been appropriately prepared, of course) while a world-weary presenter tried to carry on as if nothing had happened.

Sidey rode the inevitable bureaucratic punches and was proved right in the end. The industry, though not the BBC, recognised his talent and he became a highly respected figure within the Royal Television Society which accorded him the honour of asking him to be its chairman for four successive years.

Phil Sidey is survived by his wife *Daphne*, two sons and a daughter.

BRIAN MURPHY

Brian Murphy, head of the Press and Information Department of the TUC, 1975-79, died on October 26 aged 66. He was born on March 6, 1929.



BRIAN MURPHY was one of the Labour movement's earliest spin-doctors (though the phrase postdated his own PR career). After making his name as an advertising copywriter, latterly with BBD&O, he became in 1973 head of the Television, Radio and Film Division of the European Commission in Brussels, in the first wave of British appointments to that body. Two years later he transferred to a similar post on the staff of the Trades Union Congress back in London — though here his responsibilities encompassed written journalism as well.

But before either of those jobs he had frequently used his advertising expertise to assist the Labour Party. He was one of the backroom boys behind the Wilson Government's 1966 landslide election victory, contributing, with the help of two others, the somewhat complacent campaign slogan "You Know Labour Government Works".

Brian St John Murphy was educated at Stationers' School, Hornsey, winning an exhibition to read English at Downing College, Cambridge. At Downing he encountered, but never became captivated by, the austere F. R. Leavis. There was certainly never anything ascetic about Murphy. Guests at the prodigious parties he gave in later life were in little danger of forgetting his endless repertoire of stirrup cups nor his constant habit at a certain stage of the evening of exclaiming "*Tiens, tiens!*"

After Cambridge, he joined the Attlee Government's ill-fated East African Groundnuts scheme in an accounting capacity. Two world tours with the P&O shipping line followed, the first as steward, the second as press officer on the maiden voyage of the *Canberra*.

As a PRO, he developed a curious friendship with Sir Tim Bell, who in political terms shopped on the opposite side of the street. They could frequently be seen lunching together — at Claridge's or Harry's Bar when Bell was the host and at the Gay Hussar when the bill was being picked up by Murphy. In whatever setting, they were as often as not the last customers left on the premises.

A highly sociable soul, Murphy was the author of several books on wine, whisky and gin. His last demand, before he died, was for "more champagne". As one of his friends remarked, at least it was a cut above the Younger Pitt's final request for "one of Bellamy's veal pies".

Brian Murphy married, in 1955, Elizabeth Snelling. The marriage was dissolved in 1987, and he is survived by two sons and two daughters.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Formula 1 title for Hill

Mexico City, Nov 3.— Graham Hill, of England, won the Mexico Grand Prix here today, and with it the world driving championship for Formula 1 cars, which he last held in 1962.

Bruce McLaren was second and Jacky Oliver third. Pedro Rodriguez (Mexico) was fourth.

Hill's victory here was good for nine points towards the world championship. Hill led with 39 before this race, followed by Jacky Stewart with 36 and Denis Hulme (New Zealand) with 33.

Hill took the lead in the first lap of the 325-mile race and kept widening it until the end, when he had an advantage of more than a lap on his closest rival. He said afterwards: "I had a lovely time. The car went beautifully. I am very pleased to have won."

Hill, who refused before the race to predict either his or his car's performance, never made a pit stop throughout the 65 laps. He helped his team-mate, Oliver, reach third place by positioning in front of Rodriguez when Rodriguez tried to pass Oliver — a legitimate ploy.

Hill was driving a Lotus Ford, McLaren a McLaren Ford, Oliver a Lotus Ford and Rodriguez a B.R.M. Hulme was eliminated early when his McLaren Ford caught fire as he sped along in fourth place. He walked away unhurt.

The accident occurred as Hulme was going into the straight of the tenth lap. "I don't know what happened," he said. "Something in the suspension broke. I hit the wall."

By the halfway stage several other cars had been forced out as Hill led from Stewart and McLaren. These included Jean-Pierre Beltoise (France-Matra), Moises Solana (Mexico-Lotus Ford), Chris Amon (New Zealand-Ferrari), John Surtees (Britain-Honda), Lucien Bianchi (Belgium-Cooper), Piers Courage (Britain-B.R.M.), Dan Gurney (United States-Lotus Ford) and Jackie Ickx (Belgium-Ferrari).

By the fortieth lap Hill was 20 seconds up on Stewart, with only five cars on the leading lap. The other three were McLaren, Brabham (Australia) and Johnny Servoz-Gavin (France).

Hill's time was given by the control tower as 1hr. 56min. 43.95sec. — a track record for this grand prix, erasing that set last year here by Jim Clark. Hill was asked which was the most difficult lap. "The last one," he replied.

Hill virtually had the race won soon after the three-quarter mark when his main challenger Stewart dropped back with engine failure. There had been 21 starters.

ENGLAND WIN SWIMMING TROPHY

England's remarkable run in the swimming international against Wales and Scotland for the Bologna Trophy was maintained at Grimsby on Saturday. They emerged comfortable winners with 38 points. Wales were second with 25 and Scotland third with 21. *England have been beaten only twice since the first contest in 1929.*

Britain's sole Olympic swimming medal winner, Martyn Woodroffe (Cardiff), won the 220 yards butterfly event in 2 min. 11.5 sec, half a second outside his British record.

ON THIS DAY

November 4, 1968

The Times today would accord a triumph such as Graham Hill's more coverage than an agency report of less than half a column. Hill was killed in an air crash in 1975.

NEWS

West gives evidence from grave

■ Frederick West's voice echoed from beyond the grave around a hushed courtroom yesterday as his taped confessions to murder were played in the defence of his widow, Rosemary.

In a dispassionate voice he admitted murdering and dismembering his daughter Heather and other young women, most of whose names he could not remember. He claimed he alone was responsible for the killings ..... **Pages 1, 6, 7**

Yeltsin loses grip on power

■ President Yeltsin's illness loosened his grip on power further yesterday, when he temporarily ceded further responsibility for Russian security and foreign policy to Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister ..... **Pages 1, 12, 21**

Scotsman sold

The Scotsman, one of Scotland's most prestigious newspapers, has been sold to David and Frederick Barclay, the twins who own *The European*, the Ritz and the Howard Hotel. The price is around £90 million ..... **Page 1**

Bonfire fun

Demand for fireworks was expected to rocket after forecasters predicted a clear and dry bonfire night ..... **Page 1**

Heir faces deportation

A 19-year-old former Nepalese mountain boy, who is the heir to an 18th-century English castle and a £1.5 million fortune, is facing deportation from his stately home ..... **Page 3**

Labour changes

Labour's ruling National Executive Committee will approve a deal to end direct trade union sponsorship of individual MPs..... **Page 5**

Prince buys Asprey

Asprey, the Bond Street jeweller to the Queen, is being sold for £243.5 million to Prince Jefri Bolkiah of Brunei, brother of the Sultan of Brunei ..... **Pages 8, 20, 25**

Extradition order

Argentina's supreme court ruled that Erich Priebke, 82, a former Gestapo captain, should be extradited to Italy for trial on charges of overseeing the massacre of 335 civilians outside Rome in 1944 ..... **Page 13**

Stars are born

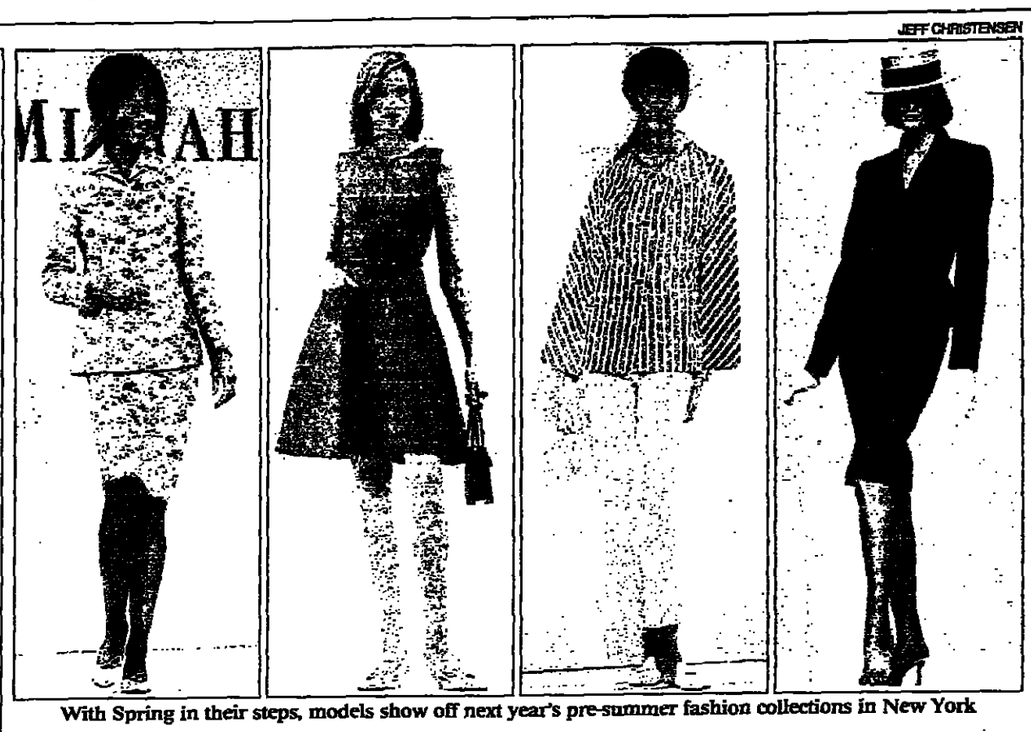
Unprecedented snapshots of newborn stars peering out of immense gas clouds some 7,000 light years from Earth have been taken by the Hubble Space Telescope **Page 14**

Killer typhoon

The most powerful typhoon to hit the Philippines for years killed 66 people, sent more than 200,000 fleeing from their homes and left millions without power .... **Page 15**

Young Tories make up to voters

■ Forty young Conservatives will spend the weekend at a hotel being taught how to dress and avoid gaffes, to woo voters. The men will be told how to apply make-up and pluck their eyebrows ..... **Page 1**



JEFF CHRISTENSEN

With Spring in their steps, models show off next year's pre-summer fashion collections in New York

OPINION

KREMLIN SICKNESS
President Yeltsin is more seriously ill than his aides have permitted the world to know. But Chernomyrdin has proved himself a cautious, reliable conciliator..... **Page 21**

BEFORE THE EMPIRE
The Queen signed a strongly-phrased apology to the Maoris. Few statements of this kind have ever been made by the Crown..... **Pages 14, 21**

SAO MIDDLESBROUGH
Although his game is more caviar than gravy, Juninho looks just like the Bisto Kid..... **Page 21**

PAPERS

Sometimes Presidents are forced into the bunker. Mr and Mrs Clinton built theirs.
— The New York Times

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Gives Shakespeare the right of reply, in his own words, to the Prince of Wales's book of favourite extracts..... **Page 20**

Anne McElvoy: The tide of separatism based on gender exclusivity or sexual orientation seems to be turning fast ..... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Sir Andrew Crichton, shipping industrialist; **Alan Bush**, composer; **Brian Murphy**, head of the Press and Information Department of the TUC; **Phil Sidey**, broadcasting executive ..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Humane prison policy threatens security; neglect of Keats House ..... **Page 21**

BUSINESS

British Airways: After almost 13 years on the board of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall is to step down next month as the airline's chief executive. He will be replaced on January 1 by Robert Ayling, BA's managing director since 1993..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 22.6 points to close at 3500.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.5 to 84.3 after a fall from $1.5809 to $1.5800 and DM2.2438 to DM2.2365 ..... **Page 28**

ARTS

Toy films: Never mind the quality of Hollywood's blockbuster films for children: just feel the weight of the merchandise that goes with them ..... **Page 17**

SPORT

Football: European football authorities are to lobby governments because they fear the final judgment on the Jean-Marc Bosman transfer will split the game ... **Page 48**

Host city: Manchester has been confirmed as host city for the Commonwealth Games in 2002. It will be the first time since 1934 that England has staged the event ..... **Page 48**

Rugby union: The game is becoming paranoid, with clubs looking over their shoulders, fearful of where the next threat to their supremacy may come from.... **Page 42**

CAR 95

On the Brighton road: the greatest veteran car run is a family affair

SATURDAY TIMES

MAGAZINE



Howard Hodgkin: Joanna Pitman discovers a wealth of colour beneath the artist's frosty public persona. **Page 8**
Out of steam: India's steam trains have run out of puff in the battle against diesel. Christopher Thomas reports..... **Page 36**



WEEKEND

Temples: A lesson for India in Neasden: Tunku Varadarajan on temples of delight..... **Page 1**
Fireworks: There'll be fireworks tonight when they burn the Pope..... **Page 4**
Celimate: The friendship between Nelson Mandela and his jailer..... **Page 15**

10 15



The weekly magazine for young Times readers
Bond's back: the special effects that make *GoldenEye* spectacular ..... **Page 6**
Win: an eight video collection of the best of Bond..... **Page 3**
Recommended: the best books, music, games and films..... **Page 10**



VISION

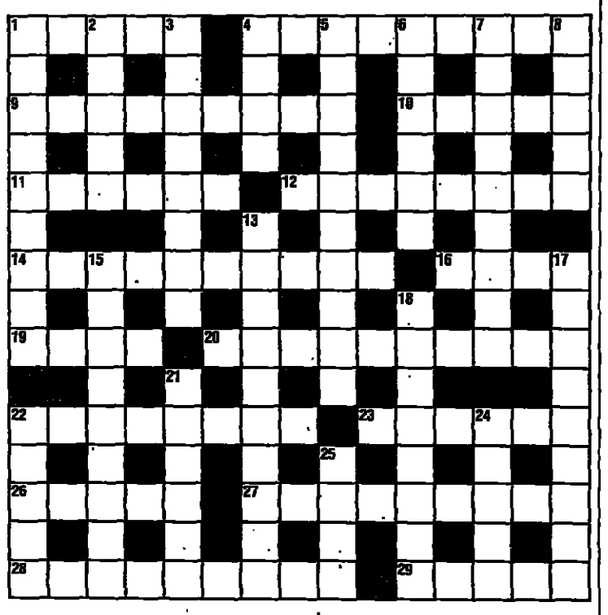
The 7-day television and radio guide
Cover story: Francis Urquhart is back in *The Final Cut*, the final series featuring Ian Richardson as the parliamentary archplotter.
Sunday, BBC1, 9pm
Booked: The Booker Prize live on Tuesday, BBC2, 8.10pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,004

KNOCKANDO
A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....



ACROSS
1 Ruffle the riding fraternity (5).
4 Crook earns his remuneration finally working routinely (2,7).
9 Speak immediately, and at length, about it — repetitiously (4,2,3).
10 Jonathan, for instance, first thrown off by spotted horse (5).
11 Stubbornly hard to get on, like a slipper? (6).
12 Frozen bird, we hear, is the issue here (8).
14 Judge must be, as a precaution (4,2,4).
16 Statuette is missing its head — a bit of a blemish (4).
19 Cultivate a little corn by river (4).
20 Shows disposition to accept less (10).
22 Resent having to ask Barnaby (8).
23 Latin-American flower girl noted for aggression (6).
26 Preoccupation with tinny note (5).
27 Entry is restricted in foreign domains (9).
28 Governor takes up residence, representing the Crown, perhaps (9).
29 Subject taken by other people — English (5).

DOWN
1 Short runs in America sort of suit these stars (4,5).
2 Silent picture (5).
3 One fool caught by ruse almost prehistoric (8).
4 It's essential to make their "One club" (4).
5 Retire, or meet with dismissal (3,3,4).
6 Note to friend, indeed! (6).
7 Observed religious being taken in by spurious miracle (9).
8 19 enforcing discipline (5).
13 Mischievous person (i.e. a monkey) accorded mercy (10).
15 Sharing out US city creates earthly paradise (7-2).
17 Kind of horse one trains hopelessly (9).
18 Small animal, a burrowing rodent, found round Kent area (8).
21 Excavate a trench, raised and enlarged (6).
22 City houses Conservative group (5).
24 Country's unknown river (5).
25 Book about man of straw, primarily (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,998

C	H	A	M	P		A	U	T	O	M	A	T	I	C
U		B		R		Q		R		I		R		L
P	R	O	S	E	C	U	T	E		T	H	A	N	E
B		U		D		E		E		R		P		F
E	X	T	R	A		O	N	T	H	E	S	P	O	T
A		T		U		O		I						
R	E	J	O	I	N	S		P	E	G	A	S	U	S
E		E		O				A		T		U		
R	O	T	U	N	D	A		A	R	T	I	S	A	N
		S		N		S		E		D				
T	H	E	R	S	I	T	E	S		C	A	M	E	O
I		T		H		T		U		R		A		W
M	A	T	E	R		G	E	R	F	A	L	C	O	N
E		E		U		E		S		A		E		
S	U	R	F	B	O	A	R	D		H	E	W	E	R

Solution to Puzzle No 20,003

S	U	P	P	R	E	S	S		S	C	A	R	A	B
U		O		E		T		G		O		U		R
B	U	R	M	A		A	T	A	G	L	A	N	C	E
T		T		L		R		U		A		I		W
R	H	E	U	M	A	T	I	C		N	A	C	R	E
A		R		E		H		D				R		
C	H	A	M	B	E	R		O	D	E	S	S	A	
T		G	A				R		P		F			
	S	E	N	S	O	R		W	A	S	S	A	I	L
A		T		O		A			C		O			
R	E	G	A	L		L	I	G	H	T	Y	E	A	R
C		A		I		L		O		I		S		E
H	A	L	F	C	R	O	W	N		M	O	U	R	N
E		O		A		N		E		O		I		C
R	A	P	I	N	E		B	R	U	N	E	T	T	E

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: H Fellows, Shepton Mallet, Somerset; E J Bushell, Oakland Vale, Merseyside; D Clements, Felixstowe, Suffolk; L Williams, St Helier, Jersey; H O O'Donnell, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
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Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	738

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.59 am — Sun sets: 4.29 pm
Moon sets 3.40 am — Moon rises 3.17 pm

Full moon November 7

London 4.29 pm to 7.00 am
Bristol 4.39 pm to 7.10 am
Edinburgh 4.27 pm to 7.27 am
Manchester 4.32 pm to 7.15 am
Penzance 4.55 pm to 7.18 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.00 am — Sun sets: 4.28 pm
Moon sets 4.49 am — Moon rises 3.43 pm

Full moon November 7

London 4.28 pm to 7.02 am
Bristol 4.37 pm to 7.12 am
Edinburgh 4.25 pm to 7.29 am
Manchester 4.30 pm to 7.17 am
Penzance 4.53 pm to 7.20 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11:11	6.88	11:46	7.25
Aberdeen	11:23	4.01	11:28	4.10
Avonmouth	4:36	11.94	5:04	12.55
Belfast	6:46	3.19	9.00	3.35
Cardiff	4:19	11.08	4:46	11.62
Devonport	3:24	4.98	3.37	5.19
Dover	8:41	6.22	9:22	6.19
Dublin	9.34	3.96	9:39	4.10
Falmouth	2.41	4.52	3:00	4.80
Glasgow	10:03	4.37	10.35	4.47
Harwich	9:16	3.70	9:55	3.90
Holyhead	8:14	5.16	8:21	5.44
Hull	3:37	6.84	4.29	6.91
Ilfracombe	3:27	8.51	3.52	8.97
King's Lynn	3.35	5.12	4:03	5.09
Leith	–	–	0.35	5.20
Liverpool	8:56	8.58	9.12	9.03
Lowestoft	6.45	2.43	7:37	2.42
Margate	9:39	4.54	10:19	4.76
Milford Haven	3:52	6.26	4:12	6.59
Newquay	2.37	6.04	2.57	6.34
Oban	3.47	3.34	3:55	3.80
Penzance	2:19	4.85	2:36	5.11
Portland	4:17	1.83	4:31	1.90
Portsmouth	9:03	4.55	9:24	4.46
Shoreham	9:03	5.88	9:27	5.85
Southampton	8:32	4.39	8:54	4.26
Swansea	3:52	8.57	4:17	9.03
Tees	0:57	4.91	1:41	4.98
Wilton-on-Nze	9:14	3.95	9:53	4.17

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Falmouth, Cornwall, 16C (61F); lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Coltishall, Norfolk, 0.03in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 7 hrs.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a frosty start in many places with isolated pockets of mist and fog in the east. The mist will clear to leave a fine day with some sunshine with the best of the brighter weather in the east.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a mainly cloudy morning with rain and drizzle at times in the west. In the afternoon it will become brighter everywhere with sunny intervals in eastern parts of Scotland. Cloud will linger over northwest Scotland.

☐ **London, E, W Midlands, Central N England:** early frost and fog will soon disperse to give a dry day with sunny spells. Wind light northeast becoming southeast. Rather cold at first. Max 11C (52F).

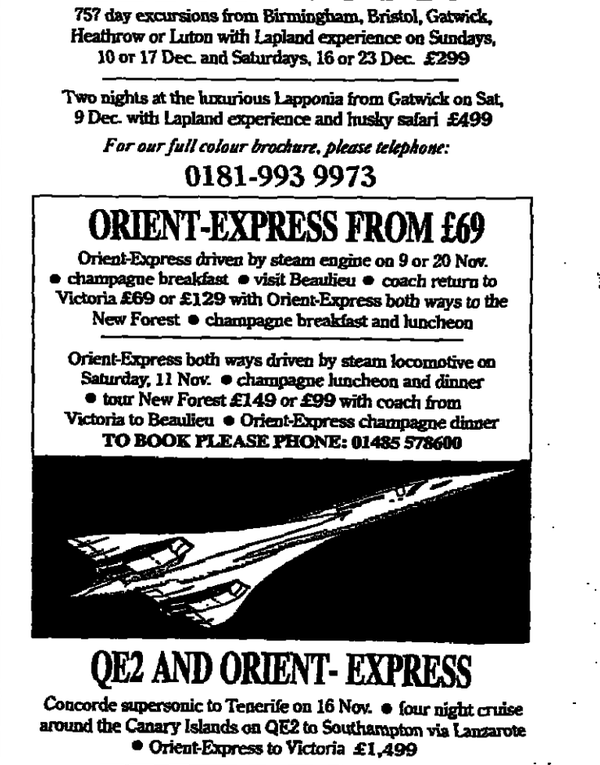
☐ **Central S, SE, E, NW England, E Anglia, Channel Isles, Lake District:** mist, fog and frost inland, clearing. Sunny spells later. Wind light northeast becoming southeast. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **SW England, Wales, Isle of Man, Glasgow:** early ground frost inland. Cloudy but brighter later. Some sunshine. Wind moderate to fresh, southeast. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** isolated mist patches soon clearing. Mainly bright with some sunshine. Dry. Wind light southeast becoming fresh or strong south. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** cloudy with rain or drizzle. Brighter during the afternoon. Mainly dry after dark. Wind south to southeast fresh or strong. Rather warm in the brighter spells. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Outlook:** dry with some sunshine. Overnight mist and frosts inland.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

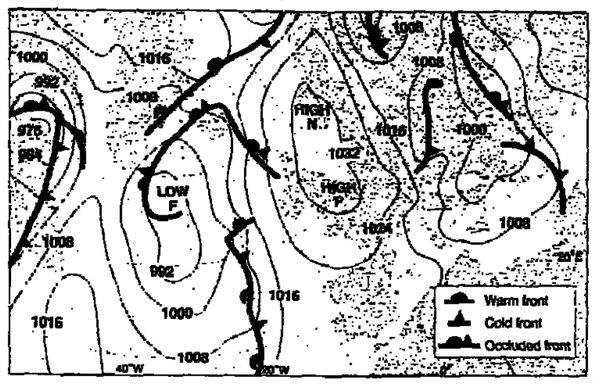
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.9	-	8	46	b
Anglesey	1.1	-	12	54	c
Aspatria	5.1	-	9	48	s
Aviemore	1.5	0.01	7	45	r
Belfast	2.5	-	10	50	b
Birmingham	2.4	-	11	52	b
Bognor R	3.8	-	11	52	b
Bristol	5.1	-	13	55	s
Buxton	5.4	-	8	46	s
Cardiff	5.9	-	13	55	s
Clacton	1.0	-	X	X	c
Colwyn Bay	1.4	-	11	52	c
Cromer	1.7	-	11	52	c
Eastbourne	5.9	-	12	54	s
Edinburgh	6.1	-	9	48	s
Eskdalemuir	4.0	-	7	45	s
Exmouth	4.0	-	13	55	s
Falmouth	7.4	-	16	61	s
Fishguard	5.1	-	12	54	s
Folkestone	5.0	-	12	54	b
Glasgow	5.7	-	9	48	s
Guernsey	5.4	-	15	59	s
Hastings	4.9	-	12	54	b
Hayling I.	2.8	-	12	54	b
Herne Bay	1.3	-	11	52	c
Hove	2.8	-	12	54	b
Hunstanton	2.3	-	11	52	b
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	4.0	-	11	52	b
Jersey	5.8	-	14	57	s
Kinloss	0.5	0.01	9	48	sh
Leeds	1.0	-	9	48	c
Lerwick	4.1	0.02	7	45	sh
Leuchars	5.1	-	9	48	s
Littlehmptn	3.9	-	12	54	c
Liverpool	6.9	-	11	52	s
London	4.0	-	12	54	b
Lowestoft	2.2	0.02	11	52	sh
Manchester	5.7	-	11	52	s
Margate	5.5	-	11	52	c
Mineheed	5.8	-	13	55	s
Morecambe	6.4	-	11	52	s
Norwich	2.5	-	11	52	sh
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	0.7	-	10	50	c
Penzance	X	-	15	59	s
Plymouth	X				
Poole	6.6	-	16	61	s
Prestatyn	X				
Ross-o-wye	1.3	-	9	48	c
Ryde	X				
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	4.7	-	11	52	b
Saunts Snd	4.4	-	15	59	s
Scarboro'	2.8	-	9	48	b
Shanklin	6.8	-	11	52	s
Shrewsbury	4.3	-	11	52	s
Skegness	X				
Southend	0.4	0.01	11	52	s
Southport	6.8	-	11	52	s
Southsea	3.5	-	12	54	c
St. Ives	X				
Stornoway	2.3	-	9	48	b
Swanage	X				
Teignmouth	4.8	-	13	55	b
Tenby	X				
Thee	4.8	-	10	50	b
Torquay	4.8	-	15	59	s
Tynemouth	2.1	0.01	9	48	b
Ventnor	6.1	-	12	54	s
West-s-mare	X				
Weymouth	5.6	-	14	57	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	20	68	s	Corfu	17	63	r	Majorca	21	70	f
Alicante	22	72	s	C'phagn	0	32	sn	Malaga	26	79	s
Alex'dria	28	79	f	Dublin	11	52	s	Malta	20	68	f
Algiers	21	70	f	Dubrovnik	12	54	f	Melb'rne	15	59	c
Amst'dm	9	48	r	Faro	24	75	f	Mexico C	23	73	s
Athens	18	64	r	Florence	15	59	s	Miami	30	86	s
B Aires	31	88	f	Frankfurt	9	48	c	Milan	15	59	s
Bahrain	X			Funchal	24	75	s	Montreal	17	63	c
Bangkok	29	84	c	Geneva	10	50	s	Moscow	2	36	r
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	25	77	s	Munich	7	45	c
Barcelona	14	57	s	Hong K	25	77	s	N Delhi	26	79	s
Beirut	17	63	f	Innsbrck	11	52	r	N York	19	66	c
Belgrade	10	50	f	Istanbul	20	68	s	Nairobi	23	73	f
Berlin	6	43	c	Jeddah	X			Naples	17	63	s
Bermuda	24	75	s	Jo'burg	25	77	f	Nice	17	63	s
Biarritz	14	57	s	Karachi	32	90	s	Oslo	0	32	s
Borde'x	14	57	c	L Angels	19	66	s	Paris	11	52	c
Brussels	9	48	f	L Palmas	24	75	s	Peking	22	72	s
Budapst	7	45	r	Le Tquet	11	52	f	Perth	21	70	s
Cairo	26	79	s	Lisbon	22	72	s	Prague	8	46	f
Cape Tn	17	63	c	Locarno	16	61	s	Reykjavik	7	45	r
Ch'church	14	57	s	Luxembg	7	45	c	Rhodes	20	68	s
Chicago	7	45	c	Lyon	29	82	s	Rio de J	20	68	f
Cologne	7	45	c	Madrid	21	70	s	Riyadh	32	90	s

Majorca	21	70	f	Rome	18	64	s
Malaga	26	79	s	S Fr'isco	12	54	c
Malta	20	68	f	S Paulo	22	72	c
Melb'rne	15	59	c	Salzburg	7	45	r
Mexico C	23	73	s	Santiago	18	64	s
Miami	30	86	s	Seoul	17	63	f
Milan	15	59	s	Sing'por	32	90	t
Montreal	17	63	c	St'kholm	0	32	f
Moscow	2	36	r	Strasb'rg	9	48	c
Munich	7	45	c	Sydney	26	79	f
N Delhi	26	79	s	Tangier	22	72	s
N York	19	66	c	Tel Aviv	26	79	f
Nairobi	23	73	f	Tenerife	26	79	s
Naples	17	63	s	Tokyo	17	63	s
Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	18	64	c
Oslo	0	32	s	Tunis	20	68	f
Paris	11	52	c	Valencia	26	79	s
Peking	22	72	s	Vanc'ver	6	43	f
Perth	21	70	s	Venice	13	55	s
Prague	8	46	f	Vienna	9	48	f
Reykjavik	7	45	r	Warsaw	2	36	c
Rhodes	20	68	s	Wash'ton	20	68	c
Rio de J	20	68	f	Wel'ngton	13	55	-
Riyadh	32	90	s	Zurich	8	46	c

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart above from noon: High N and high P will combine and drift towards The Netherlands. The pressure will increase slightly and decline. Low F will move east and fill

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 1995

Cash card fraudsters strike at Abbey again

By Robert Miller

FRAUDSTERS using bogus cash machine cards have struck at Abbey National for the second time in a year. Other high street banks and building societies, including the Halifax, have also fallen victim to a gang of three to four people, bringing total losses close to £3 million.

The Abbey last night confirmed that it is working closely with the Metropolitan Police cheque and credit card squad. It is understood that the identities of the fraudsters, who use spy camcorders to film unsuspecting customers using the cash machines, are known to the police. One long-lens camera, usually placed in a building opposite the cash machine, films the front of the card while the other zooms in on the Pin identification number being tapped in. When blown up on a large-screen TV the details are easy to distinguish and these are then transferred to the magnetic strip of a bogus card, which is used to plunder the account.

In the present case the gang has not yet been apprehended although arrests are believed to be imminent.

Earlier this year police arrested and charged more than half a dozen people from two gangs for a similar scam on Abbey National and Royal Bank of Scotland, among others. A trial is expected to start early next year. It is believed that those involved in the present fraud have connections with those already arrested. Scotland Yard declined to comment.

As a result of the latest outbreak of cash machine fraud, Abbey National, which has to date lost £1.2 million, has bought forward the replacement programme for its 800,000 Abbey-link cardholders as "a matter of urgency". Chris Wermann, of the Abbey, said that all victims had been compensated for the illegal withdrawals. He added that the new-style cards had additional security devices incorporated into the magnetic strip that would make it much harder for this particular scam to be successful.

Wynne Evans of the Association for Payments Clearing Service, which respresents 22 banks and building societies, said that as the fight against the fraudulent use of plastic cards in retail outlets became more successful so criminals were turning to other ways of stealing money, such as defrauding cash machines. This type of fraud last year accounted for a growing figure within the overall £97 million lost in plastic card fraud.

Mr Evans added: "Fraudsters also capture personal card details and Pin numbers by using devices attached to the machines. Another method is ringing up people who have had their cards stolen and pretending to be a police station or even the bank or building society branch. They then ask people to give their Pin number as a means of identifying themselves, which in a genuine case need never be divulged."

Cordiant to charge £55m of issue cash

By Christine Buckley

A LARGE chunk of the cash that Cordiant, the former Saatchi & Saatchi, hopes to raise in its rights issue will be absorbed in disposal charges and severance pay.

Such exceptional items will strip out £55 million, while Bob Seelert, the chief executive who was recruited in July and who has organised the 1-for-1 rights issue at 60p a share, is in line for a bonus of £100,000 for the completion of the issue by the end of the year.

Cordiant also gave warning that some further "re-engineering" of its operations may lead to further exceptional charges.

The widely expected rights issue, priced at a discount of 36 per cent to yesterday's opening share price, will raise £126.6 million after underwriting expenses of £6.4 million. The issue has been fully underwritten by SBC Warburg and UBS.

The cheapness of the issue price puzzled many analysts, although a number welcomed the offer as a move to propel the cash-strapped company into a stronger position.

One said: "I just can't imagine why it has been priced at this level. There had been some feeling that Cordiant could possibly have made the offer at a premium. But if it was going to discount, it needn't have been to this level."

Shares in the company, which has seen the departure of high-profile advertising accounts such as Mars and British Airways after the exit of the Saatchi brothers, added 8p to close at 92p. The shares have slumped from 156p since the departure of Maurice Saatchi, the co-founder, last December.

Cordiant has rearranged its banking arrangements on the back of the issue, which will attack the £305 million gross debt pile — a sum that towers over the £186.2 million market capitalisation. Cordiant's current facilities, which were due to expire in January 1997, had provided funds at rates equalling 3 per cent above the London inter-bank offered rate. A new revolving credit arrangement of £163 million, which matures in 1999, will mean that rates fall within the range of 1.5 per cent above Libor.

Mr Seelert said: "The group can now concentrate on revenue growth, its margin improvement plan and developing its leading position in the global advertising and marketing services industry."

He said that Cordiant had compensated for the loss of big-name accounts. Mars, British Airways and Dixons had generated £40 million revenue last year. New clients include Spillers Petfood, Peugeot, Bell Atlantic and America West Airlines.

Doubt remains over whether the Conservative Party will continue its account after being unable to pay its bill in full. If the Tories do quit, they will be forced to pay their fees in full and would not have any instalment facility.

As Cordiant — which is projected to make an operating profit of about £39 million for this year — strives to reverse its debt-laden position, Charles Scott, chairman, emphasised that the Saatchi name would not be up for sale. "That will never be on the agenda. Shareholders would have me executed if they thought that was in my mind."



ROBIN MAYES

Bob Seelert, chief executive, stands to gain a £100,000 bonus for the early completion of the issue

Marshall to step down as BA chief executive

By Marianne Curphey

AFTER almost 13 years on the board of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall is to step down next month as the airline's chief executive. He will be replaced on January 1 by Robert Ayling, who has been BA's managing director since 1993.

Sir Colin, who will be 62 in a few day's time, remains as chairman in a non-executive capacity. His new role, which will involve advising the board on developing alliances with other airlines and raising the airline's profile in government and European circles, is expected to occupy two or three days a week.

The announcement surprised the City, and shares in BA rose 10p to 475p yesterday.

Sir Colin joined BA as chief executive in 1983 and was subsequently appointed deputy chairman, taking over as chairman in February 1993 when Lord King stepped down.

Mr Ayling, 49, was recruited to the airline as its legal director and was later appointed to a number of posts before joining the board in 1991.

Sir Colin currently receives a total salary package of £765,000 including basic pay of £487,000 plus performance-related pay and bonuses.

Mr Ayling is currently paid more than £500,000 with a basic salary of £300,000.

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BUSINESS TODAY

London Market		
FT-SE 100	3500.4	(-22.6)
Yield	4.04%	
FT-SE A All share	1721.98	(-9.01)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York:		
Dow Jones	4610.40	(+1.81)*
S&P Composite	589.42	(-0.30)*
US RATES		
Federal Funds	5 11/16%*	(5 11/16%)
Long Bond	108 1/4*	(108 16/32)
Yield	6.26%*	(6.25%)
London Money		
3-mth Interbank	6 3/4%	(6 3/4%)
Lifte long gilt future (Dec)	107 1/32	(107 1/16)
CURRENCIES		
New York:		
$	1.5805*	(1.5790)
London:		
$	1.5795	(1.5815)
DM	2.2358	(2.2431)
FFr	7.7250	(7.7520)
SFr	1.7899	(1.8053)
Yen	164.04	(163.67)
£ Index	84.3	(84.5)
$$$ Rates		
London:		
DM	1.4145*	(1.4230)
FFr	4.8864*	(4.9075)
SFr	1.1380*	(1.1455)
Yen	103.83*	(104.03)
$ Index	93.5	(93.5)
Tokyo close Yen Closed		
World Oil Prices		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	$16.40	($16.40)
Gold		
London close	$382.65	($382.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Plea for help as number of firms going bust rises

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) yesterday charged the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise with forcing companies into liquidation and urged them to take a more helpful view.

The comments came after figures showing that company insolvencies have risen again in the third quarter, confirming the slowdown in economic growth. There were 3,919 company insolvencies in England and Wales, a 12.6 per cent increase on the second quarter but still nearly 10 per cent lower than the third quarter last year, according to seasonally adjusted figures from the Department of Trade and Industry's Insolvency Service.

Raw, unadjusted figures tell the same story, with a large rise in insolvencies between the second and third quarters. This reverses the pattern of last year, when the number of insolvencies fell between the two periods.

The BCC also noted that a 30 per cent rise in compulsory liquidations was a serious concern. Richard Brown, deputy director-general of the BCC, said: "Typically, it will be the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise forcing companies into liquidation. We would urge them to take a broader view to assist with company survival."

He said that a rise in the number of companies going bust had a serious knock-on effect on the rest of the economy, with late and bad debts and increasing uncertainty undermining business confidence.

However, individual insolvencies fell 3 per cent, compared with the second quarter, and 14.3 per cent on the third quarter in 1994.

☐ Consumers are "improving not moving", spending more in the high street, but not buying large items such as houses and cars, according to a survey from the Finance & Leasing Association. Store credit and personal loans were up by 31 per cent in the year to September compared with last year, but demand for car finance was up only 3 per cent. Secured lending — mainly second mortgages — fell to £23 million, a decline of 18 per cent on August's figure.

Neil Grant, FLA director, said that people were digging in for a cosy winter, improving their homes, keeping a tight grip on their budgets through canny use of credit bargains, but not moving house or buying new cars.

Asprey payoff for Attallah

By Sarah Bagnall

PRINCE JEFRI, brother to the Sultan of Brunei, the world's richest man, plans to invest heavily in Asprey, the financially troubled luxury goods group he is offering to buy for £243.5 million.

Prince Jefri has offered shareholders in the Queen's jeweller 250p a share. John Asprey, the retailer's chairman, and his family, who, together, own 52 per cent of the group, have accepted the offer. However, he has agreed to retain a 10 per cent holding in Amedeo UK, the company set up to acquire Asprey. The 250p offer is a significant premium to Thursday's closing share price of 127p, but far short of the 425p that the shares commanded in 1989. The shares rose 119p, to 246p, on the news.

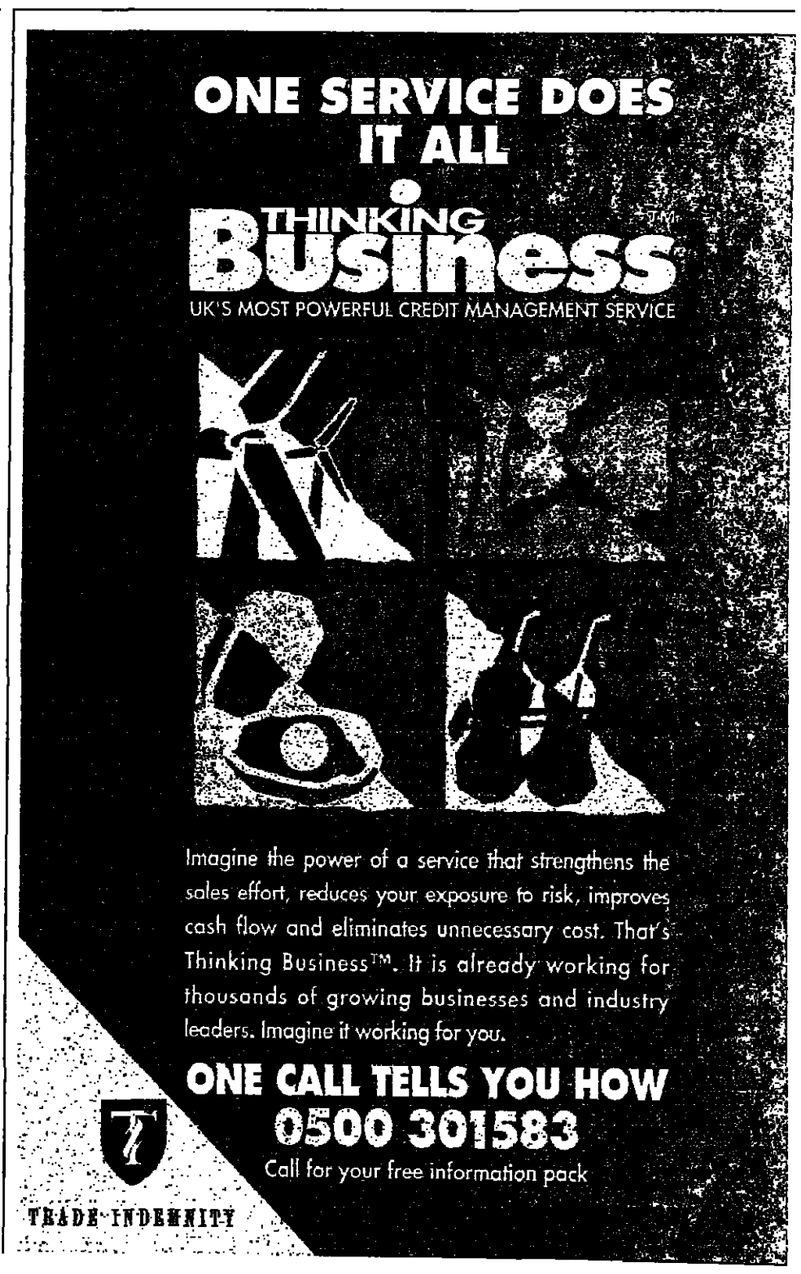
Asprey said Naim Attallah had retired as chief executive after 21 years with the group and would receive compensation for loss of office to reflect his one-year contract. Mr Attallah, who was due to retire later this year, earned £309,000 in the year to March 31.

Ian Dahl, Mr Attallah's replacement, who joined on September 1, and Mr Asprey will be chief executive and chairman, respectively, of Amedeo UK. Prince Jefri will nominate two other directors.

Mr Dahl said that Prince Jefri had approached Mr Asprey with a view to taking a minority interest in Asprey in the summer, but discussions had developed into takeover talks in the past few weeks.

Mr Dahl, who is completing a five-year strategic plan for Asprey, said that the takeover would give it the funding it needed to grow. He said: "Prince Jefri is committed to the business. He intends to make a substantial investment in the group, which will be significant relative to turnover." Asprey had sales of £177.8 million last year.

Asprey yesterday announced a drop in pre-tax profits from £3 million to £1.2 million in the six months to September 30 on sales of £93.8 million, up from £82 million last time. The company still has high levels of unsold stock, which was valued at £125.4 million at the half-way stage, against £129.6 million six months previously.



Why buy Asprey's baubles when you can buy the shop?

Enter Prince Jefri of Brunei, exit Naim Attallah, the chief executive of Asprey, who, for many years, is reputed to have wielded a Svengali-like influence over John Asprey, chairman of the Bond Street-based jewellers.

Much is known about Mr Attallah; less about Prince Jefri. This state of affairs is unlikely to change markedly for two reasons. The first is that Mr Attallah, the Palestinian socialite who owns Quartet Books and has an interest in the *Literary Review*, is not averse to a little publicity; as might be expected of someone who wears two watches and sports (on purpose) differently coloured socks.

The second reason is that the Sultan of Brunei, Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Wadaulah, is averse to publicity; as might be expected of the world's richest man with an estimated fortune of more than £20 billion. The Sultan, it may be recalled, did not enjoy the publicity that surrounded the alleged use of his funds in Mohamed Al Fayed's controversial £615 million takeover of House of Fraser in the mid-Eighties. Quite what role, if any, the Sultan has played in the £240 million Asprey deal is not readily apparent, but it can safely be assumed that the Sultan's dislike of inordinate publicity will not have been lost on his younger brother, His Royal Highness Prince Jefri Bolkiah.

Although, as *The Times* predicted yesterday, Prince Jefri has emerged as the purchaser of Asprey, the role of a Prince in purveying jade, rubies, bejewelled daggers and the like, all wrapped up in Asprey's splendiferous purple paper, is unlikely to fall into the "hands on" category. There was no sign of the prince, understood to be in Brunei, when Asprey unveiled the latest turn of events in its colourful history.

The message from John Asprey, whose family trusts control 51.7 per cent of Asprey's equity, was: "My family and I have known Prince Jefri and his family for many years. His ownership of Asprey will enhance the style and status of the group and the Asprey family is delighted to continue to play an important role in its future." He added: "Prince Jefri shares our commitment to the standards and service of the flagship business. His financial support will enable the development of all our businesses and brands to be accelerated, particularly in international markets."

Mr Asprey, presumably taking a leaf out of Prince Jefri's book, was not readily visible at the press *tête-à-têtes* that took place over a cup of tea yesterday at the St James's Park offices of Hambro Magan, the merchant banking boutique that advises Asprey. It fell, instead, on Ian Dahl, successor to Mr Attallah, to chat about jewellery in general and princes in particular with the likes of myself. Mr Dahl, the former head of Sportsgirl, an Australian fashion retailer, was



MELVYN MARCKUS

appointed heir-apparent to Mr Attallah last August, although no handover period was specified.

Mr Dahl let it be known that he was "absolutely delighted" with the latest turn of events which, he emphasised, was "good news" for everybody. Mr Dahl did not elaborate on precisely who everybody was, but it would seem safe to assume that shareholders and the Asprey family are perceived as major beneficiaries. Also good news, presumably, for Prince Jefri and, of course, Mr Dahl.

Mr Dahl also stressed that he was "totally unaware" of such developments when he joined Asprey which, he insisted, was still "totally viable" as a plc. It emerges that talks between Mr Asprey and the Sultan's family started some two months ago and subsequently moved on to a higher plane when Prince Jefri's initial interest in taking a minority stake gave way to discussions regarding a full-scale takeover.

The City has been highly critical of the policy of acquisitive expansion embarked on by Mr Attallah in recent years. The acquisition of Garrard and Mappin & Webb for £75 million from Sears in 1990 was followed by the £23 million purchase of Watches of Switzerland from Ratners two years later. Les Ambassadeurs, the watch and jewellery chain, was acquired for £10.8 million in 1993 when Asprey also bought Ronald A. Lee, the antiques specialist. Other ventures taken under Asprey's wing include Rene Boivin, the Paris jeweller and Tomasz Starweski, the design house.

Might Mr Dahl be inclined to focus on Asprey, Garrard and Mappin & Webb and "dump the rest" I asked, exuding my own inimitable charm. "Absolutely not", said Mr Dahl, who proceeded to educate me about the charms of Watches of Switzerland which, in his words, represented a "fantastic business".

Although Mr Dahl categorically denied any suggestion that Prince Jefri's intervention smacked of a "rescue" in the wake of Asprey's £9.8 million loss for 1994-95, he admitted that a cash injection, at this point in time, held "certain attractions". At this point in time, mid-year profits for 1995-96 are down from £3 million to £1.2 million.Mr Dahl and his advisers refused to comment as to how much Prince Jefri envisaged injecting into Asprey over the next few years — a silence that leaves one to guess at a further £20 million to £30 million commitment.

Sultans and their families do not, of course, tend to become involved in anything as vulgar as a takeover battle. Amadeo UK, the offshoot of Jersey-based Amadeo, has received "irrevocable" undertakings from the Asprey family in respect of their 51.7 per cent interest — 10 per cent of which will be swapped for equity in Amadeo UK. John Asprey and Mr Dahl will emerge as chairman and chief executive respectively of the UK vehicle. The prince's representatives have yet to be appointed.

The offer of 250p cash is well below Asprey's all-time high of more than 400p but, in view of the 54p low seen earlier this year, not a few shareholders will be distinctly relieved at Prince Jefri's appearance. After all, why buy the baubles when you can afford to buy the shop?

Sumitomo to take over Daiwa Bank operations in US

BY GEORGE SIVELL

AMERICA'S Federal Reserve yesterday gave its blessing to plans by Daiwa Bank, Japan's tenth largest bank, to allow its US operations to be absorbed by its rival Sumitomo.

The move follows an order by American banking authorities for Daiwa to shut down its operations in the US in the wake of an apparent $1.1 billion scheme to cover up huge bond losses in New York and a 24-point indictment alleging conspiracy to defraud the Federal Reserve.

It was revealed yesterday that Daiwa first asked Sumitomo to support its US operations on October 9 after the Japanese bank began to fear the possibility of swingeing penalties being imposed by American authorities over the bond losses.

It was also revealed that the Bank of England had found no irregularities in an inquiry jointly conducted with the Securities and Futures Authority into the London branch of Daiwa Bank. The Bank of England said yesterday: "We have conducted an investigation into Daiwa Bank London under Section 39 of the Banking Act. There was no evidence of irregularities of the kind that affected Daiwa Bank in the US or anything that would constitute a threat to depositors in the UK."

The action against Daiwa was the first against an overseas bank by the US authorities since the Bank of Credit and Commerce International was shut down in July 1990.

Yesterday, the Federal Reserve said that Sumitomo could absorb Daiwa's US operations before expiry of the 90-day deadline to shut down. In the meantime, Daiwa said it is to fight the criminal charges. If found guilty, the bank faces penalties of up to $1.3 billion.

The Daiwa affair raises questions of bank regulation around the world and strains relations between Japan and the US, when US liquidity may be needed to ease any further strains that emerge in Japan's troubled banking system.

Last night, a senior American banking monitor said that he thought Daiwa represented the problem of an individual institution and was not a symptom of a wider problem.

Jim Leach, chairman of the House Banking Subcommittee, said: "While this may symbolise certain problems in transparency in the Japanese banking system, this is a movement against an individual bank in very much the same terms as an American bank would have been moved against." He believes the Bank of Japan and the Japanese financial system have sufficient resources to deflect any systemic risk.

ROBIN MAYES



Howard Sims takes over as chief executive of the new Cavaghan & Gray Group

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Costs of equality action 'can be high'

EQUAL opportunity policies for business are compatible with economic efficiency, leading equality campaigners said yesterday. However, although the Government's Equal Opportunities Commission emphasised the business case for equal treatment, it acknowledged in a new research study on the economics of equal opportunities that the cost of implementing such policies could be high.

Kamlesh Bahl, the commission's chairwoman, said that although the ethical case for equal opportunities still formed the core of the argument in favour, it was now "legitimate" to consider the economics of the issue, with a "groundswell" among employers for examining it that way. Commission leaders will put the case for equal opportunities directly to employers at a conference to be held next month, which will be addressed by Padraig Flynn, the European Commission's Social Affairs Commissioner.

Rover recruitment drive

ROVER, the car manufacturer acquired by BMW in 1994, is to recruit 300 specialist engineers by next spring, it was announced yesterday. It brings the total number of new jobs announced this year to 4,000. By the end of next year, Rover will have increased its workforce worldwide to more than 40,000 — the highest level for more than five years. John Towers, chief executive, said volume sales were still up 4 per cent worldwide in the first nine months of this year.

Ciro extends offer

CIRO Holdings has received acceptances in respect of 34 per cent of Country Casuals, the fashion retailer, for its £27 million hostile bid. Ciro, headed by John Shannon, former chief executive of Country Casuals, has extended the 140p-a-share offer until November 16. Acceptances include Mr Shannon's 19 per cent stake and Philips & Drew Fund Management's 13 per cent interest, committed at the beginning of the bid. The shares were unchanged at 140p.

Alliance Resources slips

SHARES in Alliance Resources fell yesterday from the September suspension price of 4p to 1.5p when trading resumed after the oil and gas exploration company disclosed an $18.2 million loss in 1995, including $16.7 million from the revaluation of oil interests at the Valentine field in Louisiana. The company said it was "vigorously" pursuing legal action against John O'Brien, the former chief executive. Mr O'Brien is defending the action.

UK Safety stumbles

SHARES in UK Safety fell 11p to 19p after the company, which manufactures industrial and military footwear, warned investors that weak demand had caused a shortfall in sales in the nine months to September 30, with a significant impact on profitability and cashflow. The interim dividend of 0.8p a share, already declared, will be paid on December 15, but the payment of a final dividend will be reviewed in the light of final results for 1995.

Struggling Dalepak and Cavaghan merge

BY ROBERT BOYD

DALEPAK, the troubled Yorkshire frozen food manufacturer which supplies the likes of Tesco and Asda, is to merge with Cavaghan & Gray, the private chilled food company.

The move values Cavaghan & Gray at approximately £43.4 million, compared with Dalepak's market value of £12.3 million. The new enlarged group will be called Cavaghan & Gray Group. Howard Sims, Cavaghan & Gray's chief executive, will become chief executive of the enlarged group.

Dalepak, currently showing a loss, proposes to raise £13 million by way of an issue of up to 14.3 million new Dalepak shares at 105p each. The offer is 31 new Dalepak shares for every 25 existing shares.

Mr Sims said: "There is a large demand for capital in the food industry and we have to keep investing. In the past we have had to borrow, so this merger is ultimately the way forward."

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Trial breaks early for 'tired' Kevin Maxwell

THE Maxwell trial adjourned early yesterday after Kevin Maxwell declared himself "knackered" from three weeks in the witness box.

Nearly half-an-hour before the court's normal rising time, Alan Suckling, QC, prosecuting, told Mr Justice Phillips: "It has been drawn to my attention that Mr Maxwell has been in the box all the week — I don't know if he is tired." Kevin said "I am knackered", to which the judge said they could have a slightly earlier weekend.

During the day, Kevin said a lie he had admitted telling to the Bank of Nova Scotia about the status of shares being used as security for a foreign exchange deal had become "a huge millstone around my neck".

Kevin, 36, denies conspiring with his father to defraud the pension funds by misusing £100 million-worth of Scitex shares. He, his brother Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, deny a similar charge concerning £22 million-worth of shares in Teva, another Israeli company. The trial was adjourned until Monday.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	16.82	15.32
Belgium Fr	48.21	44.81
Canada $	2.231	2.071
Cyprus CypE	0.765	0.700
Denmark Kr	9.32	8.52
Finland Mkk	7.33	6.68
France Fr	8.16	7.51
Germany Dm	2.40	2.19
Greece Dr	386.00	360.00
Hong Kong $	12.85	11.85
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.1700	4.8200
Italy Lira	2625.00	2470.00
Japan Yen	178.00	162.00
Malta	0.597	0.542
Netherlds Gld	2.671	2.441
New Zealand $	2.55	2.33
Norway Kr	10.50	9.70
Portugal Esc	247.50	229.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.43
Spain Pta	200.50	187.50
Sweden Kr	11.12	10.32
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.76
Turkey Lira	refer	77636.0
USA $	1.678	1.548

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Britain's overpaid executives
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Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: JO CUTMORE

Top headhunter displays her Prowess

Victoria McKee meets a company chief who altered her working life to suit the needs of her family, staff and clients

DES JENSON



Jo Cutmore practises what she preaches with admirable aplomb and manages to balance a hectic work schedule with a full and satisfying family life

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

JO CUTMORE leads the sort of "portfolio" life that she recommends to those who seek her services as a headhunter. "If I'd been an inflexible, fat-cat recruiter, I'd be dead now," she says frankly. "I had to diversify in order to survive." The 42-year-old former head of search and selection at what was Arthur Young, now Ernst & Young, who set up her own company, Jamieson Scott, in 1986, has branched out over the past three years into providing interim managers and non-executive directors for a wide range of public and private sector organisations, as well as into training and advice for both companies and individuals. That comes under the auspices of Prowess, formed three years ago to challenge ProNed.

Just as the profile of the non-executive directors Prowess provides is less conventional than that of ProNed's — "not all fiftysomething white males," says Cutmore — so her own working life has become less conventional.

"We have to accept that people's lives are no longer rigidly structured for life between nine and five, and offer greater flexibility to our clients as well as to our employees," Cutmore says — practising what she preaches with admirable aplomb. A mother of four children aged from two to 11, she hasn't skipped a business beat because of any of them. Her tall, rangy physique helped her to disguise her pregnancies in efficient-looking business clothes until the last few weeks, and she was breastfeeding Bethany, her youngest, when the baby was five days old, on her way to a meeting with the Equal Opportunities Commission in Manchester (whose chief executive she had been asked to find). "It seemed appropriate, somehow, at an EOC meeting, to arrive with nanny and baby in tow," she chuckles. At other times, when it's not appropriate for her hand to be seen rocking the cradle, she claims to be in a meeting.

"You can do that when you work for yourself," she points out, "which is one of the reasons I started my own business when Sam, my first child, was a year old. If I really need to do something with the children, like going to a school sports day, or taking Sam to look around Eton — as I did recently — I know I can do it by writing my reports at night," says Cutmore, who offers the same flexibility to her largely female research staff, many of whom "down tools" at school leaving time and resume work in the evening.

"Combining home and business life is something I've become quite adept at, meeting candidates at all times of the day and night — at home, in hotels, in airport lounges, railway stations, anything to accommodate. That is the service which in the search industry is vital."

She equates her company with "Russell Reynolds, Egon Zender, Spencer Stuart — the big international search firms", but claims that Jamieson Scott can be more competitive with fees because of its comparatively low overheads, with a modest headquarters at a Belgravia address, and staff who work in clusters in Essex and Chiswick and also, like Cutmore, from their homes. "We cut down on overhead frills, and spend the majority of our fees on research. We don't rely on databases — most is fresh research for each assignment, with a database only used for sourcing," she explains.

She won't talk fees, though, except to individual clients, because they — like almost everything else in her business — are a matter of individual negotiation.

Cutmore's husband, Mark Scott, became one of her nine partners five years ago, smoothly enlarging his portfolio after a career in computer software. They enjoy working together as they met while both were tutors at the Financial Training College in London. Married for 13 years, they know each other so well that they can substitute for each other at meetings in an emergency. He was put on standby to do her big speech on non-executive directors for the Institute of Directors this year when she was ill, but in the event she was able to deliver it herself.

"The children find the concept of a holiday with their parents an amusing idea because, invariably, one or the other of us will have to interrupt a period at our house in France to return for a client interview," Cutmore says. "When you work for yourself there is more of a sense of 24-hour commitment, and we have faxes, modems, PCs and several telephone lines in France, where we go in the school vacations, and at our weekend cottage in Norfolk. It's only three-and-a-half hours door to door from France to our headquarters in Eaton Square, and we often do it if the job demands it."

> The children find the concept of a holiday with their parents amusing

But having one secretary whose voice sounds almost exactly like hers gives Cutmore a little extra freedom if she needs it, and the ability to appear to be in two places at once. A typical week, she explains, going through her (on-screen) diary, might be:

Monday, 9am: meeting (with Prowess hat on) with a public sector body's human resources director "keen to release some of his executive directors as non-executive directors in the private sector".

11am: back to the office, as Jamieson Scott, for a meeting with "a very senior military person coming for personal advice on career redevelopment, having left the Army two months ago".

No time for lunch; straight into three interviews with job candidates, lasting until the end of the day.

Tuesday, 9am: meeting with "a man from a major airline, just retired, who, in contrast with the military man on Monday, is embracing his new portfolio career". A late-morning meeting was followed by lunch with a human resources director thinking of joining Cutmore's company.

2pm: off to the Institute of Management for their Project Check-a-Board — again as Prowess. "It's a project to look at the skills and competencies needed by individual directors on a board." It took the rest of the afternoon.

Wednesday, 9am: meeting with a big pharmaceutical group to take the brief to help them to find a managing director. "We were hugely relieved to find that the group finance director we put in a year ago has turned out to be a huge success, and that the group chief exec is thrilled with his performance. The reality is that you can do a wonderful search exercise but it's not until a year later, when something like this happens, that you know how successful you've been."

Lunchtime meeting, as Prowess, to discuss a large piece of work for a former public utility board now in the private sector "which has commissioned us to take a tier of its senior management into portfolio careers". Most of Wednesday afternoon is spent planning course outlines and vetting lists of speakers.

Thursday: "My 9am interview didn't turn up so I could make 3,000 extra phone calls — bliss."

11am: meeting with the chief executive of a small listed plc who had heard about Prowess and wanted to recruit a non-executive director through it. "It emerged that he also wanted to become one himself with a blue-chip organisation such as Marks & Spencer, Kingfisher, BA, Cable & Wireless or one of the others with whom we work."

Noon: interview with a corporate finance person for a client looking to recruit one for its Midland office.

2pm: interview with individual keen to set up a branch of Jamieson Scott for us in Bristol — "a distinct meeting of the minds that looks as if it will go ahead".

Late afternoon: "Picked up the boys at school to go to look at Eton. Had no idea we were in Prince William's house until we were asked if all the publicity would bother us. Should have known it was special from the wonderful upholstery that looked like the Ritz rather than a boys' school like the other houses. I wish Bethany hadn't chosen to fill her nappy in the Master's study. To make up for that trip, I worked late into the night."

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Friday, 8am: "Got Sam off for a school trip to the Peak District.

9am: began interviews for the Commissioner for Public Appointments. "Jamieson Scott was selected by the Cabinet Office to handle the search to fill this post, recommended by the Nolan committee, that reports directly to Parliament."

10.30am: appointment as Prowess with the Department for Education "to discuss how we can assist them to identify quality non-executive directors for their non-departmental public bodies". Lunch is spent with the civil servant wife of a prominent Labour politician.

Afternoon: "Continued calling candidates for the chairman of a buyout bid for a bit of British Rail. Collected kids to drive to Norfolk, where I wrote up the report on the pharmaceutical company and the BR buyout and prepared for a meeting at one of the financial regulators scheduled for Tuesday — Jamieson Scott is assisting them in finding a finance person.

"I also settled in a new housekeeper, arranged for the nanny to go back to France to get married and for my parents to come back from Norfolk to London to step into the breach." Weekends can be as hectic. "At Sunday lunchtime we were having a small family gathering of 15 or so and I discovered someone had stolen the barbecue. Tried the oven, and it blew. So ended up feeding 15 people with one ancient fondue set."

Cutmore remembers the 1980s as "a period of great satisfaction" in the headhunting profession. "The last five years have been more challenging, but, as a business without major infrastructural costs, it's been very easy to react to market conditions, and the result has been a significant gain," she says. There has also been a significant gain on the family front, with two of her four children born during this period of intensive professional development and diversification. "I have endless admiration for people who can manage that in a big corporate structure," says Cutmore. "I'm sure I couldn't have."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Leisure facilities help Shell to keep staff in the swim

Alasdair Murray on the philosophy behind a corporate recreation complex

In a high-stress, high-action business like oil production, finding time to keep healthy can be difficult for senior management. But making sure employees are kept in trim has always been a priority at Shell.

Tucked away in the basement of the company's headquarters at the Shell Centre on the South Bank in London is a swimming pool and gym complex to help to ensure that employees are always fit for action.

The complex was included in the original plans for the Shell Centre when it was constructed in the early 1960s. At the time, it was unique, providing the largest on-site corporate recreation area in Europe, consisting of the pool, a gym, squash courts, snooker tables, a sports hall and a 338-seat theatre. Comprehensive as the sporting facilities are, they are dwarfed by the sheer vastness of the Shell Centre itself.

The building was designed by Howard Robertson, the Scottish architect credited with initiating the much-derided tower and podium style of the 1960s.

The Shell Centre was built by Robert McAlpine between 1957 and 1962, although it was 1968 before it was officially opened, upon the completion of the formidable task of fitting out the offices. It is a labyrinthine building of 1.8 million square feet of office space on a site of seven-and-a-half acres with a mind-boggling 7,000 windows, 88 lifts and 12 escalators for the 2,500 employees who work there.

Critics have described the building, with its white, imposing, faceless towers, as "hideous and inhuman". Its admirers, on the other hand, have stressed how it reflects the power and continuity of Shell, although they may be influenced by its proximity to the more maligned South Bank Arts Centre next door.

Whether it is relief from their jobs or the architecture, the pool attracts 2,000 visitors each month. It is open to any Shell employee who is a member of the Lensbury Social Club and about 200 people each month make the short trip across from Shell's other London building, in the Strand.

The pool also plays an important part in Shell's community relations campaign. Each weekday morning, three local primary schools make use of the facilities, and on Saturdays the pool is regularly employed for gala events by local cadets and Scouts.

Sponsored swims and charities are also frequently organised by Shell employees, and the Otter Swimming Club, one of the oldest in the world, is a regular user.

The pool and gym complex is a monument to less cost-conscious corporate thinking in the 1960s and 1970s. While other companies have spent the last ten years selling off their sporting facilities, Shell still possesses an impressive array of facilities, including an outdoor centre at Teddington in southwest London.

Fears are growing that the end of the corporate-sponsored swim is approaching, as Shell follows its cost-cutting peers and launches a big restructuring programme that includes a 30 per cent cut in head office jobs. However, Peter Turvey, manager of the Health and Fitness Unit, feels that the pool has a vital future in the company's life. He said: "It is a central part of the company's health promotion campaign, helping with fitness and stress relief."



The pool at the Shell Centre plays an important part in the community relations campaign

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STOCK MARKET — MICHAEL CLARK



London loses steam after Wall Street sets record

THE London stock market failed to maintain the early blistering pace that greeted news of another record-breaking run overnight on Wall Street.

Profit-taking and heavy selling of the financial future meant that the early gains were wiped out, leaving investors nursing sizeable losses, on paper at least, by the close.

The FT-SE 100 index touched 3,539 in early business, before briefly dipping below the 3,500 level just before the close. It ended 22.6 down at 3,500.4, a rise on the week of 2.5 points. Turnover reached 718.3 million shares, with heavy turnover recorded among several leading companies.

Glaxo Wellcome dropped 20p to 851p as a total of 32.6 million shares changed hands. Brokers are becoming increasingly worried that the group will be hit for six by the taxman after its acquisition earlier this year of Wellcome.

BT was another busily traded stock, dipping 8p to 370p as 22 million shares were recorded.

British Steel also featured strongly, with the price dropping 7p to 153p. Kleinwort Benson, the broker, was reckoned to have struggled to find a home for 6.4 million shares at 154p. Its job was made that much harder by publication of a sell note by rival SBC Warburg.

British Airways climbed 9p to 474p ahead of interim figures on Monday, which brokers say should make good reading. Pre-tax profits are expected to climb from £263 million to £290 million. The demand for the shares was underpinned by news that passenger traffic had climbed almost 10 per cent during October, while Robert Ayling has been appointed chief executive.

BSkyB fell 7p to 366p as the Church of England reinforced its ethical stance by selling more shares in the company. Several large lines of stock were reported, including two totalling 7.6 million at 369p. The Church of England made its decision after the satellite broadcaster began transmitting the Playboy Channel.

Shares of **Asprey**, the Queen's jeweller, surged 119p to 246p after confirming the report in *The Times* yesterday that it had received a bid approach from a company controlled by Prince Jefri of Brunei. The terms of the agreed bid are 250p a share, valuing the entire company at £243 million.

The offer has already received acceptances totalling 51.7 per cent, but the Asprey family will continue to retain an interest in the company. Asprey reported a first-half drop in pre-tax profits from £3 million to £1.2 million.



BA was up 9p ahead of interim results on Monday

interest charges has also been reduced.

The food retailers have been under a cloud for much of the week. Yesterday, the focus of attention switched to the food manufacturers as **Dalgety** fell 20p to 401p after a profits downgrading by BZW. It has cut its forecast for the year to June by £7 million to £140 million and for the current year by £16 million to £150 million. The gloom also extended to the likes of **Associated British Foods**, down 20p at 688p, **Booker**, 14p to 360p, **Northern Foods**, 10p to 169p, **Unigate**, 10p to 405p, **United Biscuits**, 7p to 261p and **Tate & Lyle**, 5p to 447p.

Among the food retailers **Sainsbury** shed a further 7p to 384p and **Tesco** 3p to 283p.

Cautious comments from Kleinwort Benson, the broker, left **Allied Domecq** 12p lower at 494p ahead of half-year figures on Monday.

Country Casuals marked time at 140p. Ciro, the company controlled by its former chairman John Shannon, says it will not be increasing its offer for the company. Country Casuals described the level of acceptances for the offer as pitiful.

News of a bid approach continued to drive shares of **Cluff Resources**, the mining exploration group, higher. The shares added a further 7p at 82p, extending the lead during the past couple of days to 32p.

Speculative buying pushed **Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television**, the independent broadcaster, 19p higher at 599p, with the warrants 11p better at 392p.

Brokers continue to ponder the consequences for the group on the opening up of restrictions on media cross-holdings. LWT Holdings, which holds the London weekend franchise, continues to hold a 14 per cent stake in YTTV with **Pearson**, 5p easier at 625p, accounting for a further 13.1 per cent of the shares.

A profits warning left **UK Safety** 11p lower at 19p, while an upbeat trading statement lifted **Hozelock**, the hosepipe equipment supplier, 17p to 434p. Since the interim figures were announced, trading had continued to meet the directors' expectations.

□ **GILT-EDGED**: Dealers had to endure a volatile session as prices bounced between some better than expected economic news and the emergence of profit-takers.

The US non-farm payroll numbers showed a rise of 116,000, which was slightly better than forecast, but the market was unable to glean much benefit with prices drifting lower towards the close.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt finished £13/32 lower at £107 1/32 as the number of contracts completed rose to 66,000.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 dropped £½ to £99 3/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 shed £⅛ at £102¾.

□ **NEW YORK**: The direction of interest rates continued to preoccupy investors on Wall Street and shares remained steady. The Dow Jones industrial average was 1.81 points higher at 4,810.40 at midday.

Sema Group rose 8p to 508p in thin trading. Talk in the Square Mile suggests a big stake is about to change hands which could result in someone acquiring more than 20 per cent of the company. Brokers were claiming that a parcel of 25 million shares is up for grabs. At these levels Sema is capitalised at £471 million.

Cordiant, the old Saatchi & Saatchi company, rose 8p to 92p after revealing details of its rights issue to raise £127 million. The terms are one-for-one at 60p.

Proceeds will go towards reducing debts, which at the last count stood at more than £200 million compared with the group's stock market value of £203 million. The group has also arranged a new revolving credit facility and the level of interest charges has also been reduced.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change
Asprey	246p	+136p Brunei prince bids 250p a share
J Sainsbury	384p	-28p ... Losing ground in food price war
Telspec	£10.40	+137p ... Institutional buying
Life Sciences Int	90p	-33p ... Profits warning
Le Creuset	181p	+21p ... Plans to go private again
Evans Halshaw	304p	-87p ... Profits warning
UK Safety	19p	-12p ... Profits warning
Cluff Resources	82p	+30p ... Bid approach
Norweb	£11.91	+57p ... North West Water bid go-ahead

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4810.40 (+1.81)
S&P Composite 589.42 (-0.30)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average Closed

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9855.80 (+106.44)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 455.65 (+1.63)

Sydney:
AO 2091.6 (+32.6)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2181.72 (-2.26)

Singapore:
Straits 2097.28 (-2.10)

Brussels:
General 7804.43 (+17.92)

Paris:
CAC-40 1832.10 (+3.36)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 698.60 (+1.90)

London:

FT 30	2564.9 (-12.8)
FT 100	3500.4 (-22.6)
FT-SE Mid 250	3873.7 (-13.1)
FT-SE-A 350	1742.7 (-10.1)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1413.68 (+3.77)
FT A All-Share	1721.98 (-9.01)
FT Non Financials	1819.81 (-12.35)
FT Fixed Interest	112.56 (+0.14)
FT Govt Secs	93.84 (-0.20)
Bargains	26887
SEAQ Volume	753.5m
USM (Datastrm)	184.44 (+0.011)
US$	1.5800 (-0.0009)
German Mark	2.2365 (-0.0073)
Exchange Index	84.3 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1948
£:SDR	1.0611
RPI	150.6 Sep (3.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.2 Sep (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Asn Smllr	92	...
Abtrust Asn Sml Wts	32½	...
Arlon Props	9	-1
Chartwell Intl	50	...
Cons Coal (50)	68	...
Creos International	104	...
Fleming Jpn C	101	...
German Slr Wrts	17	...
Guinness Flight	95	+1
Guinness Flight U	195	...
Guinness Flight W	12	...
Hay & Robertson	37	...
Indpt Radio	114	...
Intl Greetings	523	...
MultiMedia (45)	60	...
Murray Vct	105	...
Northern Venture	101	+1
XPerp UK Sml (100)	102	...
Preston Nth (400)	400	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

First Choice n/p (60)	4½	-1
Quality SP n/p (535)	129	...
Stordata Sols n/p (12)	6	+½
Wellington U n/p (100)	2	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Asprey	246p (+119p)
Sage Group	262p (+18p)
PizzaExpress	206p (+13p)
Ranger	385p (+20p)
Azlan	505p (+25p)
Gibbon	221p (+10p)
L Joseph	443p (+20p)
MAID	296p (+13p)
Chiroscience	294p (+12p)

FALLS:

UK Safety	19p (-11p)
Stanley Leisure	329p (-26p)
Northern Foods	169p (-10p)
Hillsdown	154p (-8p)
AB Food	688p (-20p)
Unigate	405p (-10p)
Glaxo Wellcome	851p (-20p)
ICI	769p (-18p)
Montedison	425p (-9p)
Carlton Comm	949p (-19p)
Fine Art Dev	402p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 39

TEMPUS

Risk-free banking

BACK in the good old days of stockbroking, when fixed commissions were the norm and insider dealing was tolerated, a merchant banker and a broker knew how to price a rights issue. The client asked his merchant bank for £127 million. After furrowing his brow and shaking his head, the merchant banker agreed reluctantly that it might just be possible. He then sounded out the brokers, who sounded out the institutional shareholders. After a little argy-bargy over favours granted and owed, the institutions agreed to guarantee to buy the shares (they would have bought them anyway) for a commission of 1¼ per cent. The bank took ½ per cent for a 12-hour overnight risk and the broker took ¼ per cent for notifying his mates.

Due to some deeply unfortunate attention from the Bank of England, the Office of Fair Trading decided to look into these arrangements and this year pronounced that fixed underwriting commission was too expensive and the process created conflicts of interest.

How silly of the Director-General of Fair Trading to try to meddle in traditions that have served the City well for so long. Yesterday's rights issue from Cordiant demonstrates that even the arrangements described as expensive were cheap compared with the new regime. SBC Warburg and UBS, having split the deal between them, are charging a handsome 1¾ per cent for the onerous task of underwriting the Cordiant rights issue for less than a day.

In this new world of free commissions, the banks do better than ½ per cent, but, after yesterday's price rise, it is clear that the rights issue need not have been underwritten at all.

CRH

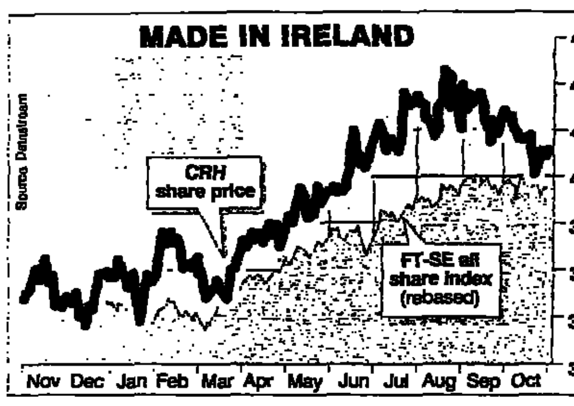
CRH is more than just the largest Irish cement manufacturer, but in the current market that position alone should be enough to make British building materials groups envious.

With about 80 per cent of the market in the Republic and 60 per cent over the whole of Ireland, CRH is not immune from competition — anyone is free to set up shop, the company insists — but few would be so foolish as to challenge CRH on its home turf.

Last year, over a third of the group's trading profits came from the Republic, generated from only 18 per cent of sales. The proportion of Irish profits is down — CRH is expanding rapidly worldwide — but the margins it earns from cement, bricks, blocks and asphalt are consistently high: over 15 per cent operating returns compared with half that rate for the group as a whole.

CRH is supplying the materials to build a fast-growing economy: the Republic's GDP grew 6 per cent in 1994 and is expected to increase by 5 per cent next year after growth of 5.5 per cent this year. Add to that subsidies from Brussels, a thriving housebuilding industry and you end up with a lot of bricks and cement.

Little of this has affected investor perception of CRH, which remains lumbered with a similar rating to its British peers which operate in a distinctly dull market. A lot of value seems to be going cheap at CRH.



North West Water

JOHN BRIDGEMAN, snubbed by the President of the Board of Trade just a month after starting as Director-General of Fair Trading, is not the only one peeved that North West Water's bid for Norweb was allowed through. Many City shareholders need a deal of persuading. They have seen North West shares sag since August and will not have been best pleased by yesterday's 23p fall to 574p.

That is partly the usual supply fears ahead of the bid's likely success on Monday. But there is also a credibility gap. This has not been helped by Thames Water's frank admission that it could not devise a bid for the higher rated London Electricity that it could justify financially.

North West insists the bid will help earnings per share straight away because it will be able to set off advance corporation tax on its dividends against Norweb's mainstream tax. The longer term plan to save up to £100 million a year costs will need to be demonstrated before it is fully believed. It rests on combining the billing and computerised control functions in a new facilities management company that can then spread its wings.

The real long-term gain may be the intangible opportunities that open up for a regional utility of genuine size.

Dalepak

THE prospect of salmon en croûte specialist, Cavaghan & Gray, reversing its operations into the grillsteak kitchens of Dalepak might cause some investors to forgo their supper, but the deal makes strategic sense for Cavaghan.

Dalepak has a had a rough ride in the supermarket price wars. Barriers to entry in frozen meat and vegetable products are not huge and the superstores have shown themselves to be ruthless in demanding more for less from suppliers. Cavaghan's profit performance by comparison suggests that Marks & Spencer employs a buyer with a more gentle touch than the battle-scarred food retailers.

Cavaghan's profit margins, although considerably more healthy than Dalepak's, suffered slight erosion last year as raw material costs increased.

Whatever the extent of M&S paternalism towards its suppliers, Cavaghan must be concerned about the limits of its growth as an M&S supplier. Sooner or later, the price premium attached to M&S food products will come under attack and the brunt of the damage will be borne by suppliers. Dalepak offers Cavaghan diversification, but with the new shares issued at a prospective multiple of 12 times, investors may question whether the issue price fully reflects the war between the stores.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	917-916	Mar	1040-1037
Mar	949-947	May	1060-1056
May	969-968	Jul	unq
Jul	987-986	Sep	—
Sep	1004-1002		
Dec	1022-1018		Volume: 3667

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	2450-2440	Jul	2130-2125
Jan	2311-2310	Sep	2080-2060
Mar	2247-2246	Nov	2050-2030
May	2172-2170		Volume: 2119

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	321.0-20.3
Spot: 389.5		Oct	291.9-90.5
Dec	366.0-62.3	Dec	288.2-85.5
Mar	337.0-36.3	Mar	286.2-83.5
May	328.5-27.3		Volume: 2567

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 2

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	100.83	107.47	127.98
(+/-)	+3.94	+2.91	-0.55
Eng/Wales:	100.77	107.90	127.59
(+/-)	+3.94	+2.80	-0.32
(%)	-4.0	+10.0	-4.0
Scotland:	107.33	105.29	129.99
(+/-)	+3.65	+3.38	-1.72
(%)	-4.0	-1.0	-5.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.85	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Dec)	16.60	n/c
Brent 15 day (Jan)	16.40	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	17.90	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	17.65	n/c

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	B	O
Premium Gas .15	184 (+2)	186 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	158 (+1)	159 (+1)
Non EEC IH Nov	158 (+1)	159 (+1)
Non EEC IH Dec	158 (+1)	159 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	85 (-1)	87 (-1)
Naphtha	155 (+1)	156 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Nov	156.00-56.25	Feb	153.50-53.75
Dec	155.25-55.50	Mar	152.25-52.50
Jan	154.50-54.75		Vol: 21905

BRENT (6.00pm)

Dec	16.60-16.61	Mar	16.04-16.08
Jan	16.38-16.39	Apr	15.97 SLR
Feb	16.21-16.22		Vol: 16845

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Nov	123.15	Nov	114.50
Jan	125.50	Jan	117.50
Mar	125.70	Mar	119.50
May	129.40	May	121.50
Jul	131.00	Sep	109.50
Volume: 403		Volume: 112	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	175.0
Apr	288.0	284.5
May	unq	330.0
		Volume: 125

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)
Dec 101.75-102.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Nov 95	1645	1630	1636
Dec 95	1670	1645	1655
Jan 96	1672	1640	1659
Apr 96	1660	1630	1631

Vol: 410 lots — Open Interest: 3662
Index 1542 +4

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2915.0-2920.0	2792.0-2795.0	2792400
Lead ($/tonne)	689.00-691.00	688.50-689.00	202526
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1048.0-1048.5	1068.0-1068.5	746625
Tin ($/tonne)	6365.0-6370.0	6380.0-6385.0	32405
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1670.0-1671.0	1705.0-1706.0	1801075
Nickel ($/tonne)	8770.0-8780.0	8885.0-8887.0	106530

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom.	460	39	46	48	7	10	18
(*494)	500	13	23	26	25	29	39
Argyll	280	23	31	34	5	9	14
(*298)	300	11	20	23	14	18	24
ASDA	90	9	11	14	2	3	5
(*96)	100	4	6	9	7	8	9
Boots	500	41	52	58	6	9	15
(*535)	550	13	23	30	27	31	38
Br Airways	460	26	38	45	12	16	22
(*474)	500	9	19	26	34	38	43
BP	460	18	26	32	11	17	21
(*466)	500	4	10	16	38	42	45
Br Steel	140	14	19	21	2	3	6
(*153)	160	3	8	10	11	13	16
C & W	420	18	34	40	15	22	28
(*422)	460	5	17	23	42	47	51
CU	600	37	47	56	14	28	33
(*613)	650	16	23	33	41	57	61
ICI	750	42	52	62	13	28	32
(*768)	800	16	26	37	38	55	59
Kingfishr	460	28	38	44	11	23	28
(*470)	500	10	19	25	34	45	50
Land Sec	550	37	49	54	5	11	17
(*582)	600	9	20	25	27	29	42
M & S	390	22	31	36	7	11	16
(*404)	420	7	15	20	22	26	30
Nat West	600	53	61	72	8	20	29
(*636)	650	23	33	46	29	45	53
Sainsbury	360	29	38	42	3	6	11
(*384)	390	12	21	25	16	19	24
Shell	700	42	53	57	4	14	18
(*728)	750	13	23	29	25	38	42
Smkl Bch	600	45	58	68	8	15	18
(*634)	650	17	30	41	29	37	40
Storehse	280	14	21	28	8	12	15
(*286)	300	5	12	19	19	23	26
Trafalgar	20	5	6	7	2	3	4
(*23)	25	2	4	6	5	6	7
Unilever	1200	33	55	66	23	41	45
(*1205)	1250	12	31	42	56	69	74
Zeneca	1150	74	99	119	28	51	61
(*1181)	1200	46	72	91	51	75	84
Series		**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
Grnd Met	420	16	29	36	3	18	20
(*432)	460	2	13	18	29	42	43
Ladbroke	140	14	19	20	0	2	4
(*154)	160	1	7	9	7	10	13
Utd Bisc	260	6	17	25	5	12	16
(*261)	280	1	9	16	19	23	28

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	41	53	59	4	7	12
(*496)	500	15	28	34	18	22	27
Thames W	500	31	44	51	11	16	27
(*524)	550	10	21	27	41	44	55
Series		**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
BAT Ind	500	28	45	51	1	12	20
(*525)	550	2	19	25	25	35	46
BTR	330	7	18	22	2	9	14
(*334)	360	0	6	9	25	27	33
Br Aero	700	19	51	62	7	23	37
(*712)	750	2	26	40	39	51	64
Br Telcm	360	12	20	27	1	10	12
(*370)	390	1	7	13	20	29	30
Cadbury	500	20	41	44	5	17	24
(*515)	550	1	19	21	35	43	51
Guinness	500	12	30	36	3	12	20
(*508)	550	0	9	14	42	43	49
GEC	300	16	22	30	1	6	8
(*314)	330	1	7	15	16	21	23
Hanson	191	4	9	—	3	10	—
(*192)	211	0	2	—	19	20	—
LASMO	140	12	17	20	0	4	6
(*151)	160	1	7	10	9	13	15
Lucas	180	18	25	28	0	3	5
(*198)	200	3	13	16	5	10	13
Pilkingtn	180	16	21	27	0	4	5
(*196)	200	3	9	15	7	12	13
Prudential	390	18	35	38	2	12	18
(*406)	420	2	18	23	16	24	33
Redland	330	14	29	35	1	7	14
(*342)	360	1	13	19	18	21	30
R-Royce	140	10	16	18	0	3	5
(*150)	160	0	6	8	10	13	16
Tesco	280	7	18	22	2	8	14
(*283)	300	1	9	12	16	20	25
Vodafone	260	10	20	28	2	10	14
(*268)	280	1	12	18	13	21	24
Williams	300	14	23	27	1	5	10
(*312)	330	0	8	11	18	20	26

FT-SE INDEX (*3497)

	3350	3400	3450	3500	3550	3600
Calls						
Nov	157	110	69	36	15	4
Dec	183	145	108	76	50	30
Jan	205	168	135	104	79	58
Feb	225	188	156	126	100	78
Jun	—	239	—	180	—	129
Puts						
Nov	5	8	18	37	69	115
Dec	21	33	47	68	94	127
Jan	36	49	66	87	113	143
Feb	46	58	70	97	122	152
Jun	—	107	—	147	—	195

Series		Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
Abby Nat	500	44	56	58	4	15	18
(*536)	550	13	26	30	22	39	43
Amstrad	280	16	26	33	8	14	17
(*286)	300	8	16	23	19	24	28
Barclays	750	24	44	53	19	38	44
(*750)	800	6	21	32	52	69	74
Blue Circ	280	20	30	33	4	9	15
(*293)	300	9	19	22	12	18	25
Br Gas	220	18	24	26	2	6	9
(*233)	240	6	12	19	11	14	19
Dixons	360	32	42	50	3	10	13
(*386)	390	13	25	33	15	22	26
Forte	240	18	25	28	2	6	9
(*254)	260	6	13	17	9	14	18
Tarmac	80	6	10	11	2	4	7
(*83)	90	1	6	7	8	10	12
Hillsdwn	140	13	17	18	1	3	5
(*153)	160	2	7	7	10	12	16
Lonrho	140	20	22	24	0	3	3
(*158)	160	6	9	13	6	10	11
Sears	100	6	9	11	1	3	5
(*106)	110	2	4	6	7	8	10
Thrn EMI	1450	51	88	124	37	53	57
(*1456)	1500	29	64	98	66	81	82
Tomkins	240	12	18	24	5	10	12
(*245)	260	3	9	14	16	21	23
TSB	360	22	25	33	4	13	16
(*378)	390	5	8	15	18	30	30
Series		**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Glaxo Well	850	37	50	62	27	40	47
(*850)	900	16	27	40	56	69	75
HSBC	900	71	94	105	17	39	48
(*943)	950	42	65	78	37	62	71
Reuter	550	42	55	67	12	20	30
(*575)	600	17	29	41	35	44	50
Series		**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Royal Ins	360	38	47	54	5	15	21
(*388)	390	20	30	38	16	30	35
Series		**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Fisons	260	5	5	5	0	1	0
(*260)	280	0	0	0	18	18	20
Series		**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
Eastern Gp	950	26	30	29	0	0	1
(*975)	1000	0	0	0	25	30	31
Series		**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Natl Pwr	460	28	39	50	5	10	17
(*484)	500	7	18	28	23	29	36
Scot Pwr	330	25	30	37	3	8	10
(*340)	360	8	13	20	15	21	24

November 3, 1995 Tot: 39911 Call: 15473 Put: 24438 FT-SE Call: 4998 Put: 6824
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Dec 95	3559.0	3564.0	3502.0	3510.0	11217
Previous open interest: 68677	Mar 96	3555.5	3555.5	3537.0	3537.0	760
FT-SE 250	Dec 95				3900.0	0
Previous open interest: 3537	Mar 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Dec 95	93.40	93.40	93.35	93.36	10262
Previous open interest: 341572	Mar 96	93.53	93.54	93.49	93.51	15722
	Jun 96	93.51	93.52	93.48	93.49	8749
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 95				94.26	0
Previous open interest: 110	Mar 96				94.60	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 95	95.97	95.98	95.95	95.95	13061
Previous open interest: 813701	Mar 96	96.20	96.20	96.12	96.13	25911
Long Gilt	Dec 95	107-21	107-24	106-29	107-01	66174
Previous open interest: 104891	Mar 96	107-04	107-04	106-13	106-14	2785
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 95	121.66	121.80	121.62	121.75	511
	Mar 96	120.31	120.41	120.29	120.41	105
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 95	97.04	97.09	96.55	96.59	133538
Previous open interest: 206988	Mar 96	96.43	96.47	96.08	95.99	611
Three month ECU	Dec 95	94.43	94.44	94.36	94.39	773
Previous open interest: 19801	Mar 96	94.56	94.58	94.53	94.53	663
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 95	97.92	97.97	97.88	97.95	5302
Previous open interest: 51081	Mar 96	98.05	98.11	98.02	98.08	3162
Italian Govmt Bond	Dec 95	103.20	103.39	102.53	102.60	32625
Previous open interest: 46663	Mar 96	102.90	102.90	102.30	102.19	282

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¾ Low 6½ Week fixed: 6¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6 9/16 : 3 mth 6 17/32. Sell: 2 mth 6½ : 3 mth: 6 15/32.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 6¾, close 7½.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6¾	n/a	6¾	6¾	6¾
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.71	n/a	5.79	5.61	5.61
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £6.633m allotted: £1,200m: Bids: £98.375% received: 95%: Last week: £98.37% received: 58%: Avge rate: £6.5105% last wk £6.5346%: Next week: £1,200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	2¼-2	2¼-2	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $382.70-382.90 Close: $382.40-382.90 High: $382.50-383.00
Low: $382.30-382.50 AM: $382.80 PM: $382.55
Krugerrand: $383.50-385.50 (£242.25-244.25)
Platinum: $408.25 (£258.80) Silver: $5.33 (£3.375) Palladium: $134.75 (£85.40)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 3	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5017-2.5185	2.5017-2.5050	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	45.91-46.26	45.91-46.01	12-8pr	31-26pr
Copenhagen	8.6390-8.7120	8.6390-8.6610	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9761-0.9802	0.9775-0.9800	11-8pr	27-22pr
Frankfurt	2.2342-2.2481	2.2342-2.2373	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	234.16-235.99	234.16-234.79	29-56ds	116-161ds
Madrid	192.46-193.67	192.46-192.75	41-51ds	137-154ds
Milan	2513.9-2523.1	2516.1-2520.1	6-8ds	23-26ds
Montreal	2.1201-2.1333	2.1253-2.1283	0.14-0.06pr	0.24-0.13pr
New York	1.5770-1.5800	1.5790-1.5800	0.12-0.10pr	0.32-0.29pr
Oslo	9.8460-9.8910	9.8460-9.8610	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	7.7180-7.7580	7.7180-7.7330	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	10.427-10.557	10.459-10.482	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Tokyo	163.53-164.22	163.90-164.17	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	15.728-15.821	15.741-15.768	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	1.7975-1.8097	1.7975-1.8003	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel — Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3197-1.3206
Austria	9.97-9.98
Belgium (Com)	29.13-29.17
Canada	1.3430-1.3440
Denmark	5.4910-5.4940
France	4.8950-4.8980
Germany	1.4180-1.4190
Hong Kong	7.7325-7.7335
Ireland	1.6130-1.6150
Italy	1595.25-1596.25
Japan	103.70-103.80
Malaysia	2.5455-2.5465
Netherlands	1.5878-1.5888
Norway	6.2490-6.2540
Portugal	148.76-148.86
Singapore	1.4135-1.4145
Spain	122.19-122.24
Sweden	6.6540-6.6640
Switzerland	1.1405-1.1415

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5769-1.5795
Australia dollar	2.0826-2.0853
Bahrain dinar	0.5890-0.6010
Brazil real*	1.5172-1.5215
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7060-0.7160
Finland markka	6.7025-6.8185
Greece drachma	366.50-373.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.2019-12.2112
India rupee	54.16-55.12
Indonesia rupiah	3570.00-3638.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4695-0.4795
Malaysia ringgit	4.0176-4.0204
New Zealand dollar	2.4129-2.4163
Pakistan rupee	54.00 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6875-5.8115
Singapore dollar	2.2309-2.2332
S Africa rand (com)	5.7090-5.8110
U A E dirham	5.7375-5.8615

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	313	Legal & Gn	774
ASDA Gp	10,000	Lloyds Bk	7,900
Abbey Ntl	2,500	London Elect	652
Allied Dom	4,600	Marks Spr	5,200
Argyll Gp	6,000	Mid Elec	37
Arjo Wggns	2,100	NatWst Bk	7,200
AB Foods	516	Nat Power	1,100
BAA	967	NW Water	1,700
BAT Inds	2,100	P & O	3,300
BOC	3,300	Pearson	638
BP	4,900	PowerGen	3,400
BSkyB	13,000	Prudential	3,900
BTR	7,400	REXAM	587
BT	22,000	RMC	6,300
Bk of Scot	1,300	RTZ	379
Barclays	10,000	Rank Org	2,800
Bass	731	Reckitt Col	1,500
Blue Circle	4,500	Redland	1,700
Boots	1,200	Reed Intl	1,100
BAe	1,800	Rentokil	811
BA	5,300	Reuters	4,800
Brit Gas	7,100	Rolls Royce	2,100
Brit Steel	20,000	Royal Ins	1,500
Burmah Cstl	4,100	Ryl Bk Scot	1,800
Cable Wire	3,400	Sainsbury	4,300
Cadbury	3,600	Schroders	8
Carlton Cms	3,200	Scot & New	1,000
Cm Union	2,500	Scot Power	4,000
Cookson	977	Sears	1,100
Courtaulds	1,100	Svrn Trent	265
De La Rue	525	Shell Trans	4,300
Enterpr Oil	1,600	Siebe	240
Forte	6,600	SmKl Bch	4,000
GKN	347	Smith Nph	1,500
GRE	6,000	Sthern Elec	326
GUS	3,100	Std Chartd	3,400
Gen Acc	929	Sun Allnce	3,200
Gen Elec	3,200	TI Gp	610
Glaxo Well	33,000	TSB	2,300
Granada	2,900	Tate & Lyle	13,000
Grand Met	6,600	Tesco	15,000
Guinness	1,600	Thames W	795
HSBC	1,800	Thrn EMI	838
Hanson	11,000	Tomkins	4,000
ICI	3,700	Unilever	3,100
Inchcape	3,000	Vodafone	18,000
Kingfisher	1,800	Whitbread	557
LASMO	5,400	Wlms Hld	1,200
Ladbroke	6,500	Wolseley	970
Land Secs	604	Zeneca	1,300

WALL STREET

	Nov 3 midday	Nov 2 close
AMP Inc	39	39
AMR Corp	70	70
AT & T	63	63
Abbott Labs	39	39
Advanced Micro	22	23
Aetna Life	72	72
Ahmanson (HF)	26	26
Air Prod & Chem	55	54
AirTouch Comm	30	29
Alberto-Culver B	31	31
Albertson's	33	32
Alcan Aluminm	32	32
Alco Standard	89	88
Allied Signal	43	43
Alum Co of Am	51	51
Amax Gold Inc	5	5
Amerada Hess	47	46
Amer Brands	41	41
Amer El Power	38	38
Amer Express	41	41
Amer Genl Corp	32	32
Amer Home Pr	87	88
Amer Intl	86	86
Amer Stores	29	29
Ameritech	53	54
Amoco	64	64
Anheuser-Busch	63	63
Apple Computer	36	36
Archer Daniels	16	16
Armco	5	6
Armstrng Wrld	60	59
Asarco	32	32
Ashland Oil	30	31
Atl Richfield	106	106
Auto Data Pro	71	71
Avery Dennison	45	45
Avon Products	71	71
Baker Hughes	19	19
Baltim Gas & El	27	26
Banc One	35	35
BankAmerica	59	59
Bank of NY	43	44
Bankers Tr NY	65	65
Barnett Banks	56	56
Bausch & Lomb	35	35
Baxter Intl	37	37
Becton Dicknsn	65	65
Bell Atlantic	64	64
Bell Industries	21	21
BellSouth	77	78
Black & Decker	34	34
Block (H&R)	44	43
Boeing	69	69
Boise Cascade	37	36
Bristol Myrs Sq	77	77
Browning Ferris	29	29
Brunswick	20	20
Burlington Nthn	82	82
CBS	81	81
CNA Financial	120	120
CPC Intl	65	66
CSX	86	85
Campbell Soup	51	51
Can Pacific	15	15
Cptl Cities ABC	119	119
Carolina Pwr	33	33
Caterpillar	57	57
Central & SW	27	27
Champion Intl	51	51
Chase Manhat	59	61
Chemical Bk	59	60
Chevron Corp	47	47
Chrysler	49	50
Chubb Corp	91	91
Cigna Corp	105	105
Citicorp	66	67
Clorox	72	72
Coastal Corp	32	33
Coca Cola	72	71
Colgate-Palmolive	70	69
Columbia Gas	38	38
Compaq Comp	55	55
Comp Ass Int	55	55
Conagra	39	39
Conrail	68	68
Cons Edison	30	30
Cons Nat Gas	39	38
Cooper Inds	33	33
Corestates	35	35
Corning Inc	26	26
Crown Cork	34	34
Dana Corp	27	26
Dayton Hudson	72	73
Deere	92	91
Delta Air Lines	68	68
Deluxe Corp	27	27
Detroit Edison	34	34
Digital Equip	56	55
Dillard Dept St	28	28
Disney (Walt)	58	57
Dominion Res	40	40
Donelley (RR)	37	37
Dover Corp	38	38
Dow Chemical	66	68
Dow Jones	35	35
Dresser	21	21
Duke Power	45	45
Dun & Brdstreet	61	61
Du Pont	62	62
Eastman Kodak	63	63
Eaton Corp	51	51
Emerson Elec	74	74
Engelhard Corp	25	25
Enron Corp	35	35
Entergy	28	28
Ethyl Corp	11	11
Exxon	75	75
FMC Corp	72	73
FPL Group	42	42
Federal Express	84	86
Fed Nat Mtge	109	109
First Chicago	69	69
First Interstate	127	129
First Union Rlty	7	7
Fleet Finl Grp	38	38
Fluor Corp	55	55
Ford Motor	28	28
GTE Corp	41	41
Gannett	55	55
Gap Inc Del	41	42
Gen Dynamics	54	55
Gen Electric	63	63
Gen Mills	56	56
Gen Motors	44	44
Gen Reinsurance	152	151
Gen Signal	31	31
Genuine Parts	39	39
Georgia Pac	83	83
Gillette	48	48
Glaxo Wellc ADR	26	27
Goodrich (BF)	68	68
Goodyear Tire	38	38
Grace (W&R)	56	55
Gt Atl Pac Tea	20	20
Great Wstn Fin	24	24
Halliburton	41	41
Harcourt General	39	39
Heinz (HJ)	47	47
Hercules	54	54
Hershey Foods	59	59
Hewlett Packard	93	94
Hilton Hotels	67	67
Home Depot	40	40
Homestake Mng	15	16
Honeywell	42	42
Household Intl	58	56
Houston Inds	46	46
Humana	23	22
ITT Corp	124	122
Illinois Tool	58	57
Illinova	28	28
INCO	33	33
Ingersoll Rand	37	37
Inland Steel	23	22
Intel Corp	72	72
IBM	100	99
Intl Flav & Fr	49	49
Intl Paper	36	36
James River Va	33	33
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	80	81
Kellogg	73	74
Kerr-McGee	54	55
Kimberly-Clark	73	72
Kmart	9	9
Knight-Ridder	57	57
Lilly (Eli)	95	95
Limited Inc	18	19
Lincoln Nat	46	45
Litton	40	40
Liz Claiborne	28	28
Lockheed Martin	68	68
Louisiana Pac	24	24
MCI Comm	25	25
Marriott Int	37	37
Marsh & McLnn	83	83
Masco Corp	28	28
May Dept St	40	41
Maytag Corp	19	19
McDonalds	41	41
McDonnell D	83	82
McGraw Hill	83	82
Mead Corp	58	58
Medtronic	59	58
Mellon Bk	51	51
Melville Corp	32	32
Merck Inc	56	56
Merrill Lynch	58	58
Microsoft	99	100
Minnesota Mine	58	57
Mobil Corp	103	101
Monsanto	105	106
Morgan (JP)	77	78
Motorola Inc	67	67
Natl Semi	24	24
Natl Service Ind	29	29
Navistar Int	10	11
NBD Bancorp	38	38
NY Times A	29	29
Newmont Mng	39	37
Niag Mohawk	10	10
Nike B	59	59
NL Industries	13	13
Noram Energy	7	7
Nordstrom	39	39
Norfolk Sthrn	76	77
Nthn State Pwr	47	47
Norwest Corp	31	30
Nynex Corp	48	48
Occidental Pet	21	21
Ohio Edison	23	23
Oracle	45	45
Oryx Energy Co	11	11
Owens Corning	42	43
PPG Industries	43	43
PNC Bank	27	27
PP&L Res	23	22
Paccar Inc	41	42
Pacificorp	19	19
Pac Enterprises	25	25
Pac Gas & Elect	29	29
Pac Telesis	30	30
Pall Corp	24	23
Panhandle East	26	26
Peco Energy	29	29
Penney (JC)	43	43
Pennzoil	37	37
Pepsico	53	52
Pfizer	58	58
Phelps Dodge	65	64
Philip Morris	86	85
Phillips Pet	32	31
Pitney Bowes	43	43
Polaroid	41	41
PriceCostco	17	17
Procter & Gmbl	83	83
Providian	39	39
Pub Serv E & G	29	29
Quaker Oats	33	34
Ralston Purina	61	61
Raychem Corp	46	46
Raytheon	43	43
Reebok Intl	34	34
Reynolds Metals	52	52
Roadway Srvcs	48	49
Rockwell Intl	45	44
Rohm & Haas	59	58
Royal Dutch	127	127
Rubbermaid	26	26
SBC Comms	56	56
Safeco Corp	66	67
St Paul's Cos	51	51
Salomon Inc	37	37
Sara Lee Corp	29	29
Scecorp	17	17
Schering Plough	53	53
Schlumberger	62	62
Scott Paper	53	52
Seagram	36	36
Sears Roebuck	35	36
Shell Trans	70	70
Sherwin Wlms	37	37
Skyline Corp	17	18
Snap-On-Tools	42	42
Southern Co	23	23
Sprint Corp	38	38
Stanley Works	47	47
Sun Company	28	28
Sun Microsys	81	79
Suntrust	65	65
Supervalu	30	31
Sysco Corp	31	30
TRW Inc	68	66
TCC Inds	5	5
Tandem Comp	11	11
Tandy Corp	44	45
Teledyne	24	24
Temple Inland	44	44
Tenneco	45	44
Texaco	67	68
Texas Inst	66	69
Texas Utilities	37	37
Textron	69	69
Time Warner	37	37
Times-Mirror A	28	28
Timken	40	40
Torchmark	41	42
Toys R Us	23	23
Transamerica	69	69
Travelers	53	52
Tribune	62	63
Tyco Labs	62	62
UST Inc	30	30
UAL	184	184
US Inds	15	15
USX Marathon	18	18
Unicom	33	33
Unilever NV	130	130
Union Camp	48	48
Union Carbide	38	38
Union Pacific	65	68
Unisys Corp	6	5
USAIR Group	14	14
USF&G Corp	16	16
US Life	28	28
United Tech	89	89
Unocal Corp	28	30
VF Corp	49	48
WMX Tech	28	28
Wal-Mart Stores	23	23
Warner-Lambert	87	88
Wells Fargo	211	215
Westinghouse El	14	14
Weyerhaeuser	44	44
Whirlpool	55	54
Whitman	21	21
Winn Dixie	65	65
Woolworth	14	14
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	47	49
Xerox	130	129
Yellow Corp	13	13

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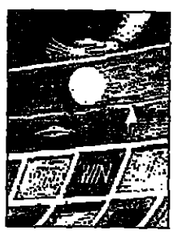
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Robert Miller on the art of investing

WEEKEND MONEY

PREMIUM BONDS 35

Taking your chance with Ernie



Clarke urged to kick-start house sales

Sara McConnell gives the Chancellor a housing shopping list for Budget action



Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is coming under heavy pressure to abolish stamp duty on house purchases in the Budget.

Stamp duty raises between £600 million and £700 million for the Treasury every year but leading lenders say this is the best and quickest way of sending a strong message to prospective and existing homeowners that they have not been abandoned by a Conservative Government. Lenders give warning that without intervention from the Government, the housing market will sink further into decline.

The Halifax and the Nationwide, the two largest building societies, this week reported further falls in house prices over the last month. On top of this, the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) published a survey which showed a clear majority not at all likely to buy in the next two years. Fear of debt in an uncertain job market and the high cost of buying are putting first-time buyers off, so trapping existing buyers.

The CML and leading lenders including the Halifax, the Nationwide and the Bristol & West, support the abolition of the 1 per cent tax on the purchase of properties costing more than £60,000 as a first move towards unjamming the market. Stamp duty immediately adds more than £600 to buyers' bills, just when the borrower is under the greatest financial pressure.

Borrowers questioned by the CML also overwhelmingly favoured abolishing stamp duty. Of 2,000 borrowers asked, 71 per cent wanted stamp duty abolished, with 60 per cent wanting an increase in Miras for all borrowers.

The Abbey National, however, claims abolishing stamp duty would make no difference. Instead, it called on the Chancellor to increase tax relief on mortgage interest for first-time buyers as a first priority. Most lenders share the Abbey's belief that first-time buyers are the key to the revival of the housing market and need special encouragement but acknowledge that he would face considerable political difficulty raising Miras.

Because of this, many put help for first-time buyers through the tax system as second priority after abolishing stamp duty. Miras has been cut in successive Budgets from a maximum of 40 per cent (for higher-rate taxpayers) to 15 per cent. It is worth £350 a year to a borrower with a £30,000 mortgage at current interest rates. The CML suggests increasing the relief to 25 per cent on loans of up to £50,000 for five years for first-time buyers. Defining a first-time buyer is, however, a problem. Similar problems would arise with introducing tax breaks for the estimated one million borrowers in negative equity, suggested earlier this year.

According to the CML, Revenue officials would have to distinguish between the "feckless and the unfortunate" and there would be potential for fraud.

Lenders unanimously reject the concept of a negative-equity tax break saying the key to unlocking the negative equity trap is to get the housing market going again with other measures. But borrowers are keen, with 60 per cent of those questioned by CML supporting a negative-equity tax break.

COST OF MIRAS

Last year — 20% for all borrowers at first £30,000	£3.5bn p.a
Current — 15% for all borrowers on first £30,000	£2.8bn p.a
If raised to 25% on first £50,000 for first time buyers*	extra £390m**
Cost of lump sum home mover's grant in place of Miras	£3.5bn p.a***

*assumes 550,000 first time buyers; **In first year, assuming mortgage rate of 8%, up to £1.2bn in third year; ***Halifax proposal, assumes lump sum of £3,000 for 1m moves a year.

Source: Council of Mortgage Lenders

Savings safer for elderly

As the Chancellor prepares his Budget, he is under pressure to reward savers and private investors — those who John Major was thinking of when he suggested that the public ought to be given incentives to save for old age (Marianne Curphey writes).

With just three weeks to go before the Budget, Kenneth Clarke is considering allowing elderly people to keep more of their life savings when they go into long-term nursing care. He could double the £8,000 ceiling on assets that old people can retain if they need state support for long-term medical care. This measure would have the support of Age Concern, the charity that is campaigning for a better deal for pensioners in residential care.

Fear of offending the retired could hold Mr Clarke back from another amendment to savings rules. Though it has been widely rumoured in the last few weeks that Mr Clarke would move to abolish the 5 per cent tax-free withdrawal facility on single-premium bonds, Elspeth May, tax partner at KPMG, the accountant, doubts whether he would be so savage. She said: "The Chancellor has to foster the 'feel-good' factor, giving us money to spend."

Maurice Parry-Wingfield, tax partner at Touche Ross, the accountant, believes this Budget provides an ideal opportunity for Mr Clarke to boost and simplify personal savings and investments by integrating personal pensions, Peps, Tessas, and medical insurance for the over-60s into new-style personal investment plans.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Self-assessed tax means keep it simple

Simplicity must be the Chancellor's Budget byword. Whatever his tax-cutting ambitions, they will be tempered by the need not to add complication to the fiscal system, before the self-assessment reforms due to be implemented in 1997. Simplicity is essential to self-assessment, as taxpayers will be required to work out their own tax bills.

Yet, despite his wish to ensure smooth introduction of the new rules, accountants think the Chancellor will be tempted to take 1p off the 25 per cent basic rate of tax, at a £1.6 billion cost to the Treasury. Glenn Leitch, personal tax partner at Touche Ross, the accountant, says this would put an extra £150 a year into the pocket of those on £20,000 a year.

Changes to the 20 per cent tax band that now applies to the first £3,200 worth of taxable income are also likely. Mr Leitch said: "He could widen the band considerably and so be able to rename it the basic-rate of tax." Maurice Parry-Wingfield, tax partner at Touche Ross, believes a phased cut, over three years, in the basic rate to 20 per cent would be sensible.

The Chancellor has been encouraged to raise the value of the married couple's allowance of £1,720 and to restore it to the 25 per cent rate of tax. But the Inland Revenue is known to dislike it. This means the Chancellor may choose only to freeze the allowance at its current level.

Families where one parent or both has executive share options, however, seem likely to benefit from a change of heart on the taxation of these perks. Under pressure from big employers, such as Asda, the Chancellor is now expected to modify the recent rules, making option gains subject to income tax. It is predicted that Kenneth Clarke will allow share-options gains up to the value of £40,000 to be covered by the more favourable capital gains tax regime. This would exempt thousands of middle-ranking employees from taxation, as their gains would be less than their £6,000 capital gains tax allowance.

It is rumoured, however, that other workplace perks, such as season-ticket loans and mortgages, will be brought within the National Insurance net. Profit-related pay schemes may also be under threat, as they are increasingly seen as a payroll cost-cutting measure for business, rather than a way to involve employees in the profitability of their companies. In some cases, the profit-related portion of salary is said to vary little, which was not intended.

In the light of the Government's pledge to "reduce and eventually abolish" capital gains tax and inheritance tax, some changes to both are likely. Mr Leitch also emphasises capital-gains calculations must be made more straightforward to allow individuals to do the sums themselves, without undue suffering, when self-assessment arrives.

Mr Parry-Wingfield said dispensing with both is to encourage tax avoidance: "They are a long stop to prevent people from converting taxable income into tax-free capital."

He proposes that Mr Clarke should instead rebase the base date for gains from March 1982, to a more recent date, and do away with indexation of gains and various other reliefs. The rate of the tax should be reduced from 40 per cent to 20 per cent.

ANNE ASHWORTH

Looking for bolt-holes

INVESTMENT STRATEGY



ANTHONY HARRIS

There has been a sullen hush in the London market this week, depressed by disappointing retail news and a forbidding forecast from Shell. The European slowdown is beginning to bite. This is nothing like the start of a crash — New York and even Tokyo still look buoyant, and there have been rallies even in the London drift — but could our bull market end not with a bang, but a whimper? Few commentators think so yet (and I remain uneasily with the majority). However, one bird of ill omen has now appeared, and it is time for the prudent to look at the downside.

The bird is an impressive fowl: GT Trust, a widely respected fund manager. In its latest report on policy, GT announces that, after a survey of all world markets, it can find only one (to which we will return) that does not begin to look overvalued. It has therefore switched to caution: it is building cash balances, and hedging its existing portfolios in the futures market.

The small investor cannot hedge economically, and so the question is not one of whether you should follow GT's example, but a starker one. Is it time to sell equities, or bonds, or both?

The GT case is, in general, depressingly persuasive. The basic message is that after a bull year in a flattish world economy, enough is enough. Unlike most analysts, GT believes that the current Maastricht-induced slowdown in Europe will be quite obstinate, given glum psychology in most EU countries, it is hard to see why not. GT sees no early recovery in Japan (where GT is unusually well informed). Wall Street is seen as still in the grip of technology mania, with the emerging markets still shrinking back into their holes. As for the wall-of-money argument often stated in this column, GT points out that scheduled privatisations in Europe and new issues in the US will mop up some $50 billion of that money in the coming year. Help!

Now that you are frightened, where to turn? It is here that GT looks a little less convincing. A slowing economy and a steeply positive yield curve conventionally argues for a switch into bonds. GT believes that if and when Japan recovers, all world bond yields will rise (and prices fall). It presents some statistical correlations to support this thesis, but cannot suggest why it should be so. I, for one, am not persuaded, and offer the more conventional analysis: bonds, the poor relations in a bull market, are now offering high real yields, few higher than gilts. An excellent hedge against recession, then for anyone unworried about inflation, with the hope of a good tax-free capital profit. Two cautions: the running return is not so attractive to a high rate taxpayer (especially if you allow for a high high rate under Labour) and a bond portfolio needs alert management. The rallies are slow, and look reliable; however, as we learnt last year, the correction, when it comes, can be vicious.

For those who want to reduce tax bills and nervous strain, indexed gilts are the ideal bolt-hole: low yield, no inflation risk, and, at the moment, historically undervalued against the equity market. Again, though, there is a health warning: because yields are low, and because this is a relatively illiquid market, prices are more volatile than in conventional gilts.

If you do not follow this market closely, you may find it expensive to get out when you wish. And that is the attraction of GT's implied suggestion, a building society deposit.

But can you, a red-blooded equity man, face the prospect of sweating over a bond portfolio, or sleeping on a mattress of cash? If not, consider GT's one bright spot: South Africa. Politics are proving less frightening than billed, inflation is falling fast, tourism is booming and manufacturing recovering, and market multiples are quite undemanding by world standards. Time to brush up your Afrikaans.

What would have turned

£6,000

into

£20,000

in just seven years?

The Schroder UK Enterprise PEP.[1]

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- You would have had the comfort of knowing that, since its launch, the Schroder UK Enterprise Fund has produced more money for its investors than any other UK equity invested unit trust[2].

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Source of figures: Micropal to 30.10.95. [1] Gross income reinvested on Schroder UK Enterprise Fund since 01.08.88. £6,000 became £21,455. [2] Gross income reinvested since 01.08.88., 1130/3.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The levels and bases of, and reliefs, from taxation may change. Tax reliefs referred to are those currently available and their value may depend on the circumstances of the individual investor.

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Schroders
Schroder Investment Management

Helen Pridham offers a guide to guaranteed investments

Your money back with interest — if you are careful

CLIFFORD HARPER



No one likes losing money. Seeing the stock market slide and your investments with it can unsettle even the boldest investor. For some people a loss of capital can be devastating.

To avoid this danger, security-minded investors are attracted by "guaranteed" investments which protect against loss. But they must look carefully at what is guaranteed and how it is provided.

Guaranteed products have been particularly popular this year according to Charles Levett-Scrivener, associate director of Towry Law, the financial adviser. "There are two main reasons. A lot of people got their fingers burnt last year when the market fell.

"Although the market has risen again in recent months, it takes longer for people's attitudes to change. The other factor is that most of the money available for investment is coming from retired people who feel they have earned all they are going to earn and are inclined towards investments which do not put their capital at risk." The appeal of guaranteed returns was illustrated earlier this year when Legal & General's guaranteed corporate-bond Pep attracted £150 million, while other companies not offering guarantees were barely able to attract this amount between them.

Some guaranteed products have been around for years. Gilts and National Savings products come with a government guarantee. Guaranteed income and growth which are issued by insurance companies have also been popular.

But more recently there has been a rapid growth in guaranteed-equity investments using financial derivatives to provide fixed returns linked to the rise in the market, or your money back if it falls. There are now a number of variations on this theme.

Mr Levett-Scrivener says these guaranteed-equity products need very careful scrutiny. He says: "People must be sure they understand what they are buying and how it affects their tax position."

One point investors should bear in mind is that guarantees are often linked to a specific period or anniversary. If you need to cash in early you may get back less than your original investment. So be sure you can lock away your cash for the whole period.

Here are some of the main guaranteed products:

■ **Gilts:** Issued and guaranteed by Government, no other investment is as secure. Yet they are often overlooked by private investors. They pay a fixed rate of interest for a fixed term which can range from under 5 years to more than 20. Longer-term gilts are currently yielding 8 per cent or more gross. At the end of the term the stock is repaid in full. In the meantime, the price will fluctuate. So if they are sold early or purchased when prices are high you may get back less than you invested. Details on how to purchase them through the National Savings Stock Register can be obtained from post offices.

> "Investors must be sure that they understand what they are buying and its effect on their tax position"

■ **National Savings:** Also backed by Government, National Savings offers a range of products with a guaranteed rate of return and your money back. These include the Pensioners Guaranteed Income Bond which pays a monthly income equivalent to 7.5 per cent p.a. gross, fixed for five years. The minimum investment in the bond is £500, the maximum £20,000. National Savings also offers one of the few products that guarantees that the value of your investment will keep pace with inflation — Index Linked National Savings Certificates.

■ **Guaranteed Income & Growth Bonds:** These are sold by insurance companies usually for terms of between one and five years. They pay a fixed rate of income or growth and your capital back at the end of the term. Income is normally on a monthly or annual basis. The typical minimum investment required is about £3,000. Rates of up to 7 per cent net of basic rate tax are currently being offered on five-year bonds. To be able to offer these rates, insurance companies have to be in a favourable tax position which means they tend to be small or in a rapidly expanding phase. Among the more recognisable companies currently offering bonds are Abbey Life, Britannia Life and NatWest Life. Investors should bear in mind that the guarantees on these bonds are only as good as the companies themselves, though the Policyholders Protection Act would ensure that investors got back 90 per cent of their money if a company collapsed.

■ **Guaranteed Equity Bonds:** Normally issued for a five-year term, investors get a percentage of the growth in the FT-SE 100 index (which measures share-price movements of the UK's top 100 companies) or their money back if the index falls. Many bonds guarantee a minimum of 25 per cent over the term even if the index falls.

Mr Levett-Scrivener says the concept is not as simple as it appears. He says: "Frequently it is not 100 per cent, but only 96 per cent of an investment that will be raised in line with the index. No dividend income is added — the FT-SE 100 index is a capital index only. The index level at the term's end is also frequently averaged over the last six or 12 months. This protects against sudden falls, but you won't benefit from sudden rises."

Most are issued by insurance companies that quote returns net of basic rate tax. But they are also sold by building societies and banks, such as Barclays, currently offering a Guaranteed Equity Savings Bond. They can quote returns before tax. Returns from these products cannot therefore be directly compared and for higher-rate taxpayers the tax treatment is different. Higher-rate taxpayers will normally be better off with insurance-based bonds.

■ **Guaranteed Equity Income Bonds:** Some guaranteed-equity bonds provide an income as well as a capital return based on market indicies. Mr Levett-Scrivener says these need even closer scrutiny. He cites the Financial Assurance Higher Income Bond which is offering an 11 per cent income. "Investors only get their money back if both the FT-SE 100 index and the S&P 500 Index grow by 9.25 per cent over five years. If either does not achieve the required growth, the capital return will be less than the original investment. At worst, it will be less than 50 per cent.

■ **Bank & building society products:** Banks and building societies have always guaranteed your capital back but more are now offering fixed-rate term accounts, such as the Halifax's Guaranteed Reserve Account. Recently the trend has been to offer stepped-rate bonds that guarantee rates will rise over a term of three to five years. Investors should not be too impressed by the high rates at the end of the term. Average the rates over the period to get a better figure to compare with flat guaranteed rates. Some Tessas have also been offered with guaranteed rates and there will be more in the coming months.

■ **Peps:** Most Peps are not guaranteed. The only guaranteed-equity Pep on the market is Legal & General Guaranteed Stockmarket Investment Plan. Investors pay a one-off insurance premium of 4 per cent to cover the capital guarantee and a 2 per cent annual management charge. It invests in a unit trust which aims to track the FT-SE 100 index with a no-loss guarantee at the fifth anniversay. Unlike guaranteed-equity bonds, this Pep also enables investors to enjoy the added benefit of the dividend income from the underlying shares. Also still available is Johnson Fry's Guaranteed Corporate Bond Pep, paying 7 per cent net over 5 years and your capital back at the end of the term.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

How safe are bank and society savings?

Q How safe is my money in banks and building societies? What compensation can I hope for if things go wrong?

A First, a few words of reassurance. The UK's banks and general life assurance companies have a better track record than similar organisations in the United States, according to Paul Greenwood, of actuaries Wm Mercer. "Our life assurance regulations have been taken as a model by many other countries: our banks have had fewer collapses than the US."

Investors are protected by the panoply of regulation established by the Financial Services Act. However, the system is not without flaw, as a number of scandals have revealed. Mr Greenwood cites the issue of custody: who holds the assets of a unit trust group and are they being invested elsewhere?

Q I have £15,000 with a society. How safe is it if the society collapses?

A Under the Building Societies Act 1986, 90 per cent of savings up to £20,000 per person (ie £18,000) is covered in the event of the society folding. This is the maximum statutory payout and a husband and wife with a joint account would each be covered for this amount.

However, the Building Societies Association says there has never been a payout because societies are so carefully regulated. If a society seemed to be in trouble a merger with another society might well be arranged.

Q What about the £15,000 I have in my bank? Is that covered too?

A Under the Deposit Protection Scheme, customers can get back 90 per cent of their money up to a maximum of £18,000 per person. Interest earned on your account at the time when the deposit becomes due and payable will be protected, subject to the limits of the scheme. In a liquidation, deposits cease to attract interest immediately, whereas in other cases deposits will normally continue to accrue interest until maturity. The payout is the maximum temporary payout pending the restructuring of the bank. It may not be the final payout. In general, all loans, overdrafts and other amounts owing to the bank will be deducted when calculating the amount of the deposit on which compensation will be paid.

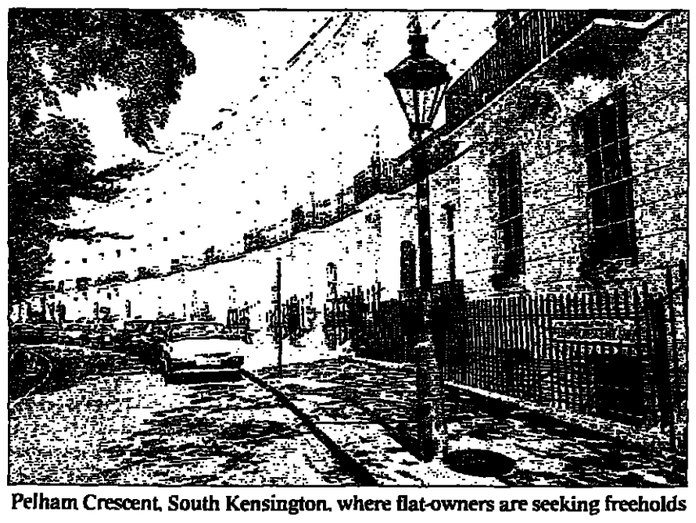
Q And my policy with an insurance company?

A Individuals who have an insurance policy with a UK authorised insurance company are protected by the Policyholders Protection Act of 1975. You should ask your insurance company whether it is authorised before you pay. The protection scheme guarantees up to 90 per cent of the insurance company's commitment to the policyholder at the time when the company goes into liquidation if the company cannot pay out. You will get 90 per cent of the money you have in your fund at the time. The scheme also covers general insurance for homes, and vehicles.

Q How secure is my personal equity plan?

A With unit trust Peps, the collapse of a unit trust management company is covered by the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS). You get back up to £48,000 if the management company fails, if the manager stole your money or committed a act of fraud. If you are a husband and wife you each get back £48,000. If you bought your unit trust Pep through an independent financial adviser or tied agent and he put your money in a high-risk fund when you asked for something safe, you may have a claim against the adviser, or against the ICS if the firm rejects the complaint.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



Pelham Crescent, South Kensington, where flat-owners are seeking freeholds

Charity faces court fight over freehold

Sara McConnell on a campaign by flat-owners who feel they are being deprived of new rights

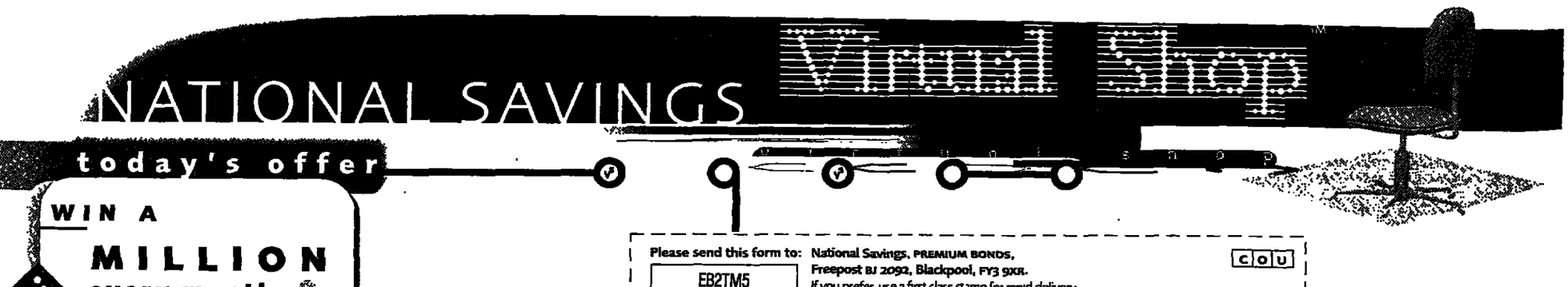
One of the leaseholders fighting to buy the freehold of blocks of flats on the South Kensington estate of Henry Smith's Charity is taking the charity to court, claiming that it has failed to follow procedures laid down in the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987. These are intended to give tenants the right of first refusal of the freehold if the existing landlord wants to sell to a third party.

The imminent court battle is the latest twist in the campaign being waged by residents of the South Kensington estate, which takes in such exclusive streets as Pelham Crescent, Onslow Gardens and Lennox Gardens. At issue is the control of the freeholds of their properties.

Other flat-owners are fighting similar battles. Investigations by *The Times* have found that many landlords are flouting the law and threatening huge legal costs if tenants attempt court action. The Labour Party this week pledged to tighten leasehold enfranchisement laws and enforce sanctions on freeholders.

Zipporah Mainwaring, a resident on Smith's Charity's South Kensington estate, will ask the West London County Court this month to order the charity to issue her a section 5 notice under the 1987 Act, immediately giving her first refusal to buy the freehold. Smith's Charity says it will not issue section 5 notices to residents to offer the sale of the freehold until a system of estate management has been agreed between residents and Cluttons, the charity's agents, approved by a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal and an appeal heard. Cluttons says a scheme is necessary to preserve the integrity of the estate. The tribunal hearing to approve a scheme has been postponed until the new year after initial proposals met with a storm of protest from some residents, who said they would not have control over maintenance costs. Ms Mainwaring says an estate management scheme was not part of Smith Charity's original sale conditions. She wants to buy the freehold "unencumbered" by an estate management scheme. Cluttons, agents for Smith's Charity, would say only: "The dispute is over a technical point. Ms Mainwaring has one interpretation [of the Act] which is not shared by Smith's Charity".

In July, Smith's Charity angered tenants when it announced that it had sold the freehold of the £283 million estate to another charity, the Wellcome Trust, without having served notices on tenants under section 5. This would have given tenants two months to respond. Instead, Wellcome served notices under section 18. Under this section, half the tenants must declare their interest in being offered the freehold within one month of receiving the notice. Cluttons, also acting as agent for Wellcome, says that Section 18 notices create more certainty and mean a quicker sale if tenants are not interested in the freehold.



صكذا من الاصل

PIA limbers up for final round of pensions fight

Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority regulator, is putting on her boxing gloves, determined, at last, to bring the personal pension debacle to a satisfactory conclusion.

This change of personal style is good news for those sold an unsuitable personal pension and now awaiting compensation. Insurance companies, the principal offenders in this affair, will doubtless be less pleased. Although they should see the swift resolution of this unhappy episode as the principal means of restoring public confidence in their products, a reluctance to confront realities lingers on.

This is shown in the public pronouncements of some senior insurance figures who see themselves as unfairly treated and put the blame on the media.

The power of the press may be considerable, but the masterminding of a £4 billion scandal with hundreds of thousands of victims, lured into unsuitable pensions by commission-hungry salesmen is beyond our resources.

The press is, however, concerned to see people make decent provision for their old age. It does not want to see pensioners forced by inadequate pensions to fall back on the state. This cause should also be close to the hearts of insurance company boards anxious for increased pension sales, if not for pensioner welfare. But they must be prepared to make reparation for their past behaviour. This week, the atonement process



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

began in earnest, after months of prevarication. The PIA is now making clear the ultimate sanction for failure to provide information to its special pensions unit will be expulsion from the industry.

This threat applies not only to insurance companies but also to financial advisers who have claimed co-operation with the unit would invalidate their professional indemnity cover. The instinct for survival should now urge them to contact their watchdog. Especially since the PIA has now made clear that any one of the 8.2 million people sold a personal pension can seek a review. No one at the PIA, of course, expects the total of complaints to be even near this figure, but it is the sort of number that concentrates the mind.

Those insurers and advisers who still believe they can escape scrutiny should be aware that Ms Bowe's reputation depends on the outcome of this investigation. The writing is on the wall. Or, rather in the full-page advertisements, detailing offences, that could be the next PIA penalty for wrongdoers.

Making tracks

THE announcement that Legal & General is to abolish the 5.25 per cent initial charge on its index-tracker fund is designed to fill us with gratitude at its generosity (see page 33). But the effect is quite the reverse. You wonder how such a fee was ever justified and whether it would have been discontinued if competition in this market had not been so fierce.

An index tracker mimics a particular stock market index, holding the same shares and having (in theory) the same performance. No costly research work is needed.

When Gartmore did away with its charge three years ago, it said that there was no excuse for slicing 5 per cent from an investor's cheque for such a simple low-cost operation. Others persisted with the fee, hoping that investors would not notice.

The arrival of Virgin has alerted the public to the amounts being deducted from their investments. The unit trust industry has had to make the best of this development. But at its annual dinner this week, some hissed when the name, Virgin was mentioned. High spirits or resentment? More the latter, I think.

5 STEPS TO A RICH RETIREMENT

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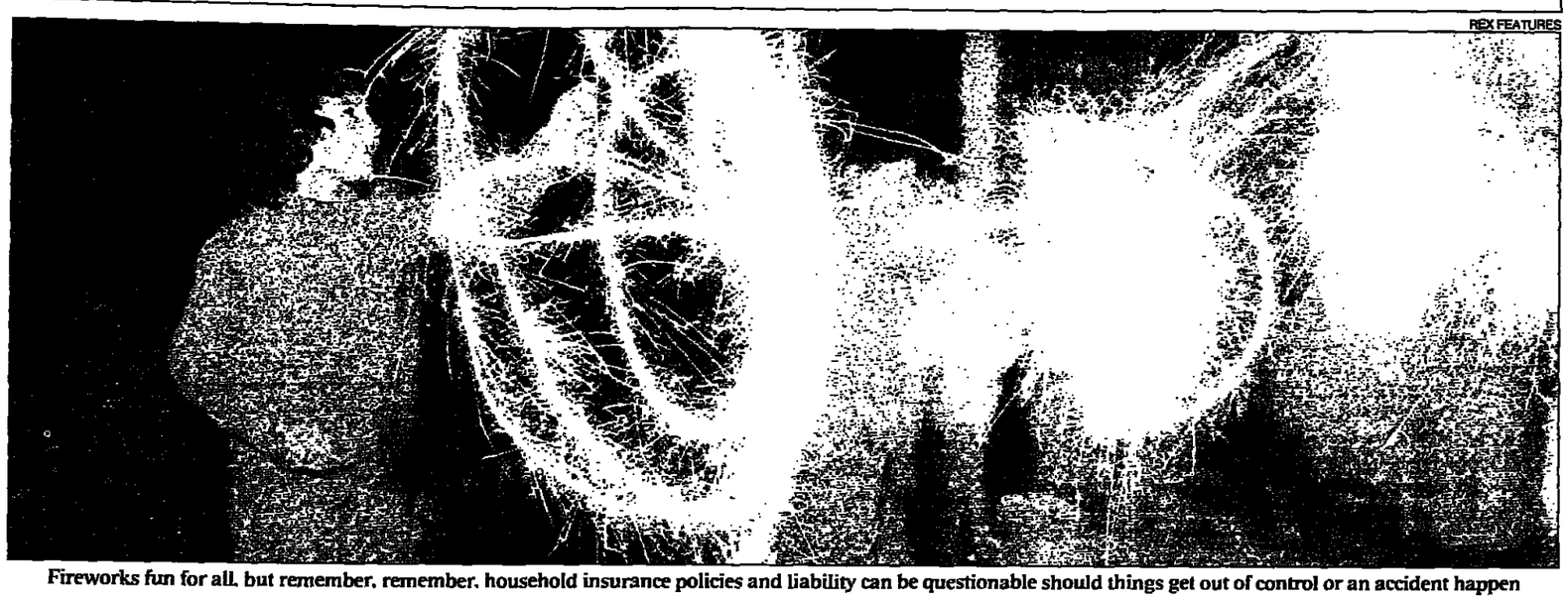
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REX FEATURES

Fireworks fun for all, but remember, remember, household insurance policies and liability can be questionable should things get out of control or an accident happen

Hidden hazards of bonfire night

This weekend is the riskiest time of year for householders as Guy Fawkes celebrations get under way. Apart from the danger of personal injury from fireworks or bonfires, the most obvious hazard is fire. On bonfire night, the risk of your home catching fire is 75 per cent higher than on any other day of the year. According to Eagle Star, the household insurer, there is an average of 600 house fires on November 5 each year against 340 on a typical day.

There are other threats. Eagle Star also found that the risk of being burgled on November 5 is 54 per cent higher than the daily norm. The average number of burglaries nationally on bonfire night, at 3,403, is the year's highest.

It is not hard to see why. The evenings are darker, many people are away from their homes attending firework displays, and the sound of exploding fireworks can mask the noise of breaking windows.

In most cases, your insurance company will honour claims. Theft is covered, while fire damage in the home caused by a stray rocket coming down your chimney or a bonfire getting out of control will also be catered for in household building and contents policies.

The latter will pay out as well if fireworks or sparks from a bonfire set alight outbuildings such as garages, sheds and greenhouses. Damage to fences and gates is also included in most policies.

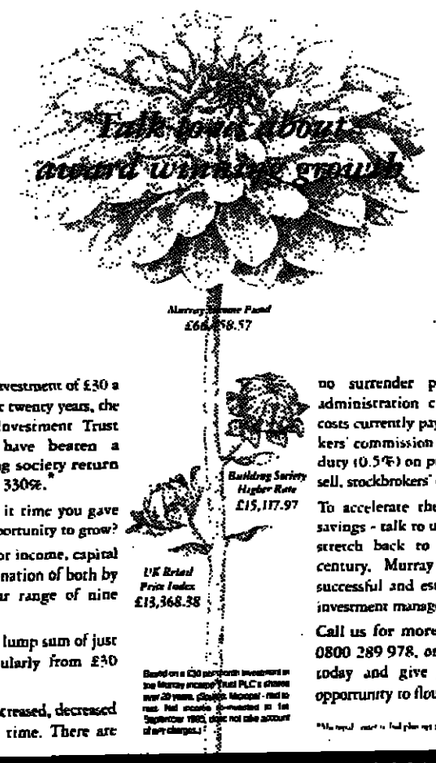
Some claims are refused. Jacky Brown, underwriting manager at Preferred Direct, the insurer, gives an example of one policyholder who, in order to avoid damaging his lawn, built a bonfire on his patio. "The heat from the bonfire ended up blistering much of the paintwork on the window frames around the patio," she says. "We had to turn down his claim for repainting the windows, but if he had had an accidental damage extension to his policy we would have met the cost."

Your household policy also covers your legal liability as owner and occupier of your property. If someone is injured at a firework party at your home owing to your negligence — say, because you told him or her to relight a firework that had not gone off and which then exploded — your insurers will cover the cost of compensation if you are sued for damages.

However, your negligence would have to be proved. Your insurers would not pay out if guests are injured because of their own recklessness — for example, if they had stood too close to a bonfire even though you warned them not to.

HELEN PRIDHAM

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*Based on a £30 per month investment in the Murray Income Trust PLC's shares over 20 years. Source: Micropal - mid to mid. Net income reinvested at 1st September 1995, does not take account of any charges.

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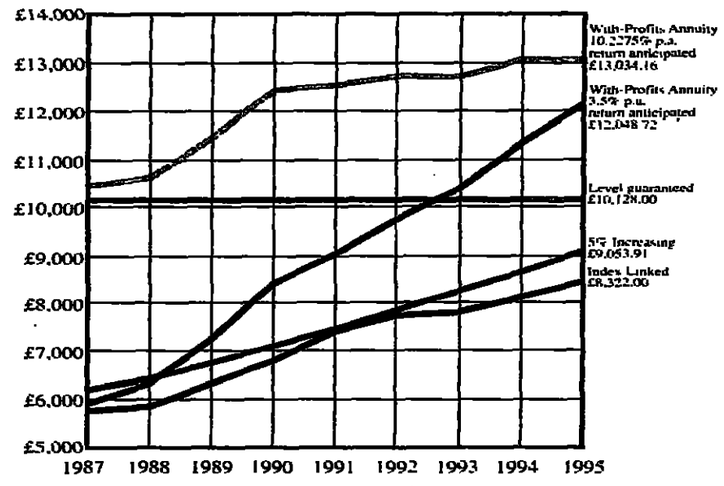
REMEMBER THE PRICE OF SHARES AND INCOME FROM THEM CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. INVESTORS MAY NOT GET BACK THE AMOUNT THEY ORIGINALLY INVESTED. TT 04/11

OVER 50?

The wrong choice at the wrong time could reduce your retirement income by up to one third.

FT Quarterly Review of Personal Finance
27 - 28 January 1995

ISN'T IT WORTH SHOPPING AROUND FOR YOUR ANNUITY?



The figures in the above graph are based on a purchase price of £100,000 on 1 April 1987. The form of annuity is a joint-life annuity - male and female aged 60, payable monthly in advance, not reducing on first death.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

You may not realise that when you take the proceeds of your pension fund you face a critical decision: which investment route and which company can provide the best possible income for you to live comfortably for the rest of your life.

There is a range of different options available. Which one is appropriate for you will depend on your individual circumstances. Some will be offered by your existing pension provider, some may not.

So, we invite anyone approaching retirement with a personal pension fund to examine our range of retirement income plans and compare it with those on offer from other companies.

After all, having spent many years carefully selecting your plan provider and contributing regularly to build up your fund, it would be a mistake not to investigate all the options before making a once and for all decision. Turning your pension fund into income is compulsory and your choice irrevocable.

Please shop around before you make your final decision, but especially take a look at what The Equitable has to offer - there are no second chances.

The above graph is designed to show what happened to four identical people and how different their outcomes have become. The graph is not designed to favour one route over another - everybody's personal circumstances are different - that's why you should seek advice about the most appropriate route. Furthermore, you should appreciate that the initial levels of annuities and their relative positions would vary depending on the date of purchase.

Failure to exercise your right to choose could prove a very expensive mistake. The Equitable Life offers the widest range of retirement income plans in the UK. We offer plans that can guarantee a fixed income, can be inflation proofed, can be linked to stock markets and plans which can give some degree of control over your investment strategy and income.

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To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7BR.

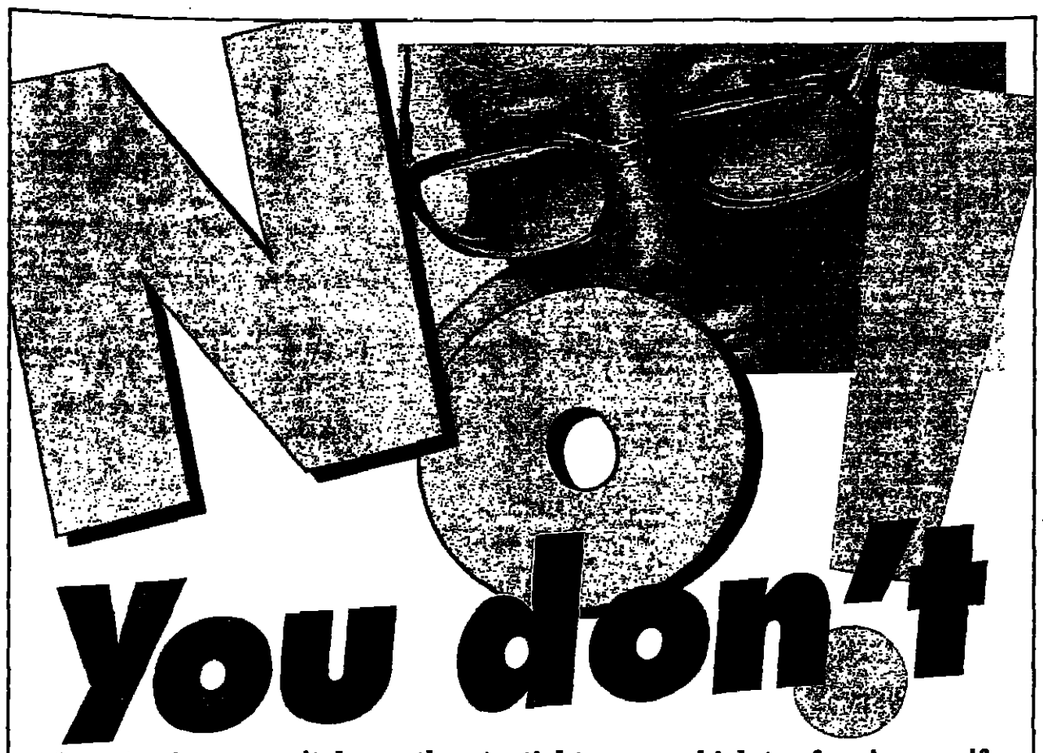
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Returns to senders

Morag Preston looks at the growing popularity of postal accounts

TED DITCHBURN



Mail orders: every postbox becomes an account branch

Postal accounts are proving increasingly popular among people who do not have easy access to a local branch of their building society, either because they live out of town or because they work through their lunch hour.

As well as cutting out the need to travel, centrally administered postal accounts offer, on average, 1.5 per cent higher interest than branch-based alternatives. Currently, 16 out of 83 societies provide postal accounts, but the number is growing all the time, which pushes up the rates.

Northern Rock says: "The main advantage of postal accounts is the access factor. Every postbox becomes an account branch. Even though our heartland is in the North East of England, through our postal account network, we can serve customers further afield." To make deposits, customers send their account book with a cheque. Interest is added from the day it arrives. But most societies offer a range of 30-day, 60-day, and 90-day accounts that require a period of notice before a withdrawal. The longer the notice required, the higher the rate of interest. Early withdrawal means a penalty.

Graham Hooper, investment director of Chase de Vere, advises: "Once you've got enough in your bank account or high street building society for day to day living, tuck away the left over in a postal account."

Such is the popularity of some postal accounts that they become oversubscribed quickly and building societies are forced to turn away new customers. Within the last year, Northern Rock has closed four postal accounts. However, they will reopen after November 9 as a result of the society's major reorganisation programme. Northern Rock says: "In order to control what is coming in, we need to turn off the tap occasionally."

Cheltenham & Gloucester, the first major building society to offer savings accounts by post in 1989, is one of the last to introduce tiered rates. On October 21, C&G divided its single tier London Account into investment brackets of £1,000, £25,000, and £100,000. However, C&G's rates have fallen to 5.85 per cent gross on £25,000 since it was taken over by Lloyds.

As well as supplying prepaid stationery, C&G is one of the few that allows its customers to make withdrawals by phone during working hours, or to deposit money over the counter. Customers at the Coventry may also make withdrawals by phone, but must make deposits by post. The Coventry is to reopen its popular Postal 50 account on Tuesday, offering an annual gross rate of 5.8 per cent on balances of £2,000, with interest increasing in tiers to 7 per cent on balances of £40,000 plus.

Most societies offer a 24-hour turnround on transactions.

Mr Hooper picks out Leeds & Holbeck, at 6.20 per cent gross interest on £25,000, and Dorset-based Teachers, at 5.45 per cent gross interest on £20,000, as his favourite instant access postal accounts for this month. "They offer much better value than high street accounts," he says. "But they do require a high minimum deposit." Customers need to put aside a minimum of £10,000 and £500 respectively.

The Bradford & Bingley upset customers recently when it cut its rates on postal accounts six weeks after the launch of Direct 60, which paid 7.15 per cent on £15,000 and 7.4 per cent on £30,000. A little more than a month after the launch, B&B cut its postal account rates by 0.4 per cent.

Nottingham and Birmingham Midshires are among the highest payers, at 6.55 and 6.2 per cent gross on £25,000. Asset (Bristol & West) account pays 6.1 per cent gross on that sum.

Chase de Vere's Moneyline is a useful source of information on 0800 526091.

Ethics and availability fight for students' cash

The result of the great chase for students' accounts, a ritual of freshers' week, is almost at an end. Although official figures will not be available until later this month, it appears that Barclays is ahead of the pack, having acquired for itself an ethical image. In the Eighties the bank was the subject of a student boycott for its South African connections.

Banks still place great importance on acquiring student customers, hoping to win their lifelong commitment. Barclays says its recruitment figures among students are up 15 per cent on last year. The bank wooed students with a £20 cash bonus, commission-free traveller's cheques, 2.5 per cent interest, and up to £750 free overdraft. Richard Harvey, head of youth market at Barclays, says: "This is our best year ever. We're doing well at all our venues."

Midland, popular in the North, predicts it still has 24 per cent of the student market it held last year. A £30 cash bonus, 2.96 per cent interest, and up to £500 free overdraft, were among the incentives on offer. It also distributed 300,000 free scratchcards at freshers' fairs. Lloyds reports encouraging signs of student uptake. The bank offered a £30 cash bonus, 1 per cent interest, and £500 free overdraft.

Halifax, which came in fairly recently, and proved popular last year, reports a levelling-out of recruitment this year, with an 8 per cent share. Its Maxim account offered 4.25 per cent interest, and up to £1,000 free overdraft.

Student unions can play a significant role in influencing undergraduates as to whom they should bank with, as the Co-operative has found to its delight. The bank attracts a lot of second and third-year students over its ethical stance. The Co-op says: "Mature students choose us because we tell them what we do with their money. Freshers, on the other hand, are hooked on giveaway keychains and vouchers."

The Co-op, which offers 0.25 per cent interest and up to £500 overdraft facility, is already ahead of target. Lloyds and Midland, however, are on a blacklist at some universities, including Newcastle and Bournemouth, over "involvement in Third World debt".

Lloyds and Midland were removed from Exeter University's blacklist last week, because the students' stance proved impractical. NatWest, offering a £20 cash bonus, 2 per cent interest and up to £750 overdraft facility, is the most popular bank on campus.

Simon Hodgson, community officer at Exeter, said: "NatWest is the most popular by default, because no other banks are allowed on campus. But Barclays is trying to move into the student market, and has started recruiting off site."

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42

The art of investing in an emerging market

Robert Miller looks at the opportunities that are coming out of Africa

TRUST WATCH

HEINI SCHNEEBELI/ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS



An Ashanti 18th century terracotta head, at the Royal Academy of Arts Africa: The Art of A Continent exhibition

Africa was *Terra Incognita* to most Europeans before the great expeditions of the 1870s, such as that of Dr Livingstone. This week, however, it is very much in the news, but for all the wrong investment reasons.

The fact that the South African Stock Exchange, a cornerstone of liquidity in the continent's money markets, is undergoing its own "Big Bang" or de-regulation, has been overshadowed by other events.

In a Durban court this week, General Magnus Malan, the former South African Defence Minister and ten other security chiefs from the apartheid era, were bailed after being charged with murder in relation to the massacre in 1987 of 13 people. In Nigeria, Ken Saro-Wiwa, the playwright, was sentenced to death, provoking worldwide condemnation, including a strongly worded statement from the Foreign Office.

It is into this apparently unsettled investment environment that GT proposes to launch an Africa fund this month. That there is growth potential in certain African markets is beyond dispute. Indeed, the African story could well be the emerging market story of the next few years. Others in this category, notably the now more mature Far East Tiger economies, such as Thailand and Malaysia, are taking a breather. John Legat, GT's director of emerging market investments, points out that in 1965 nominal per capita income in Ghana was US$260, almost twice that of Thailand.

Some 30 years on, the positions are reversed, with Ghana advancing to $430 per head and Thailand streaking away to $2,100 per person.

In Mr Legat's view, African stock markets and economies in general have been held back in the same way that many Latin American countries were in the 1970s and 80s. These factors include excessive control of national economies, centralised planning, import substitution, tariffs, price and wage controls and restrictions on foreign exchange. In certain countries, corruption should be added to the list.

Tribal and ethnic conflicts have also played their part. These include the war of Katanganese succession in what is now Zaire in the early 1960s, the Nigerian war of the early 1970s and the complete breakdown of law and order in Somalia in the early 1990s.

Turning to individual countries, Mr Legat says that in Uganda, once hailed as the Pearl of Africa, investment is only now beginning to pick up after the imposition of a strict economic regime, backed by the International Monetary Fund, in 1988. Cotton production has doubled to 70,000 bales since.

The continent is still rich in minerals, and tourism is developing rapidly.

There are now 14 bourses, or stock exchanges. Besides South Africa, other nations with bourses include Eygpt, Mauritius and Namibia.

Mr Legat says that favoured countries for his portfolio are likely to include South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Ghana, Botswana, Kenya and Mauritius.

He adds that portfolio weightings should reflect the fact that the Africa story is only part of the emerging markets theme, but is certainly worth an initial or even increased exposure. It is one for locking away on a long-term view.

Pepping up interest by abolishing sign-up fees

The price war in the personal savings market intensified this week when two leading unit trust managers scrapped initial charges on their funds. The moves, by Legal & General and HSBC Asset Management, were prompted in part by the current mood of apathy and suspicion among private investors, which has seen unit trust sales fall by 20 per cent in recent months. In addition, managers have watched Richard Branson attract £100 million of new savings to his low-cost Virgin personal equity plan (Pep) since its launch in March.

They are also looking forward to getting their hands on some of the £15 billion of funds that are held in tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) and are due to mature next year. As a result, HSBC, whose UK Index Fund is worth £162 million, announced that it was abolishing initial charges on seven on its funds. From January 1, there will no longer be a 5.25 per cent charge on its index tracking funds. Legal & General, which said that it aimed to increase its share of the Pep market from 1 to 10 per cent in the next three years, has scrapped initial charges and withdrawal fees on its five existing Peps. The company has also launched a low-cost index-tracking Pep that claims to be the cheapest on the market, investing in L&G's UK Index Trust, holder of nearly 72 per cent of shares in the FT-SE 100 index.

Index-tracking funds aim to match the growth of an index — a measure of movement in value by a certain number of shares. There are 39 authorised such funds, with £2.3 billion under management, and investors need to choose one with a good record, not just opt for one with low charges. Among the cheapest Peps is Virgin's, with an annual management charge of 1 per cent and no initial charge. Gartmore's UK Index Fund Pep has no initial charge and an annual 1 per cent charge.

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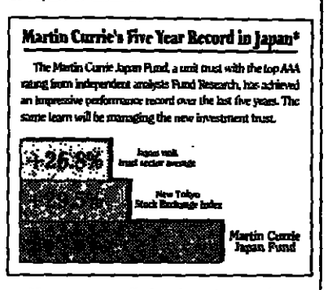
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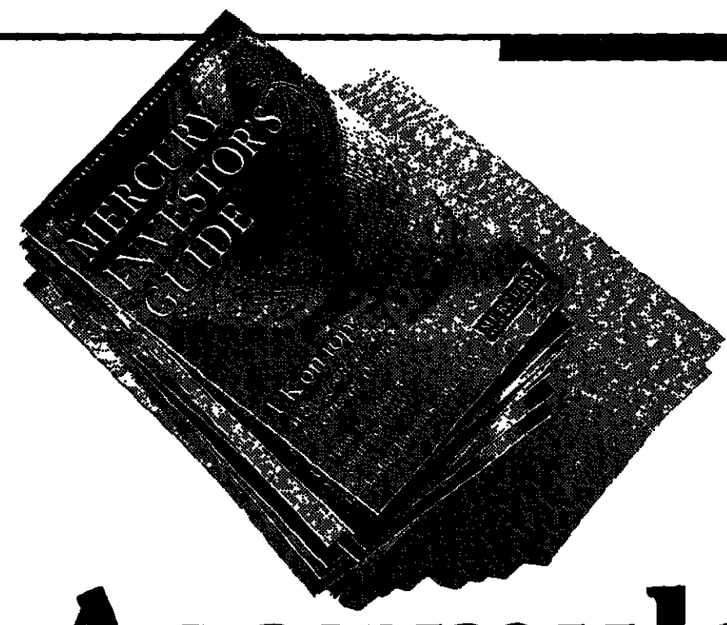
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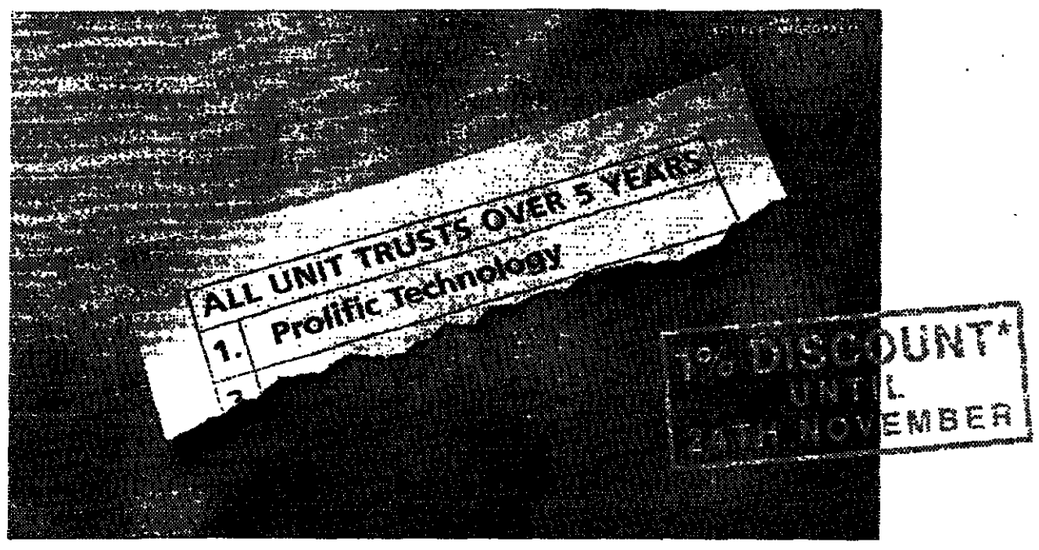
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Jill Insley on a subject most people ignore

Critical times call for critical-illness cover

When you have just been told that you are suffering from a life-threatening illness, the last thing you want to worry about is money. Yet only 2 per cent of the UK population has bought special insurance to provide a financial safety net if you develop a serious and possible fatal illness.

Critical-illness insurance pays a cash lump sum if the insured is diagnosed as suffering from any of a list of medical conditions. All policies cover cancer, heart disease and strokes — but many also give protection against less common conditions, such as organ transplants, multiple sclerosis, loss of sight and paralysis. Most insurance firms pay out if the policyholder survives 28 days after development of a critical illness, even if he or she is being kept alive by a life-support machine.

Cover can be bought as a stand-alone policy, or as an addition to a whole of life or term insurance policy. Premiums are normally reviewed — and increased — every five or ten years. Most insurance companies set a minimum sum assured of £50,000.

Patrick Bunton, manager of London & Country Lifeline, an independent financial adviser, believes many people have been put off critical-illness insurance by the cost. Critical-illness insurance is considered more suitable than life insurance for single people without dependants because they benefit from the payout.

The cheapest way to buy critical-illness insurance is as an addition to a life insurance policy. A 40-year-old man who does not smoke would pay £33.11p a month for £50,000 worth of cover over a 20-year term for permanent insurance, but a policy which paid out the same amount on diagnosis of critical illness or death would cost £41.95.

Another way to cut the cost is to limit the number of illnesses and conditions specified by the policy. Abbey Life Living Assurance Select policy covers just cancer, heart attacks and strokes, illnesses which account for 86 per cent of critical-illness claims. The 40-year-old male non-smoker would pay £27.14p a month for £50,000 worth of Select cover.

But someone with a family would be better advised to buy a policy that will pay in the event of death, even after a claim had been made on it for critical illness. This policy costs more — the 40-year-old non-smoker would pay £16.73 a month for a £50,000 Sun Alliance living benefit policy that paid out on either illness or death, and £18.48 a month to pay on both.

But Mr Bunton favours a stand-alone policy offered by Swiss Life — Critical Illness Plus — which guarantees to charge the same premium for the same sum assured throughout the term of the policy. Swiss Life also pays out if the policyholder survives for just 14 days, rather than the normal 28 days. Our 40-year-old man would have to pay Swiss Life £37.92 for his £50,000 worth of cover.

Disaster averted by payout

WHEN Alan Lane was told he needed a heart bypass operation, it could have been a disaster for his family-run business (Jill Insley writes).

Before his operation, he worked up to 100 hours a week in his plumbers' merchants. But last March his doctor detected heart problems. He went into hospital for tests and four days later had open-heart surgery. He was in hospital for eight days and took four months off.

However, thanks to Davies Wagh of Birmingham, his independent financial adviser, he had taken out critical-illness insurance from Skandia Life in January 1994.

He said: "After my operation we contacted Skandia who sent a form to appraise my claim. They rang back to say it had been approved and six days later I got a cheque."

NEWSTEAM



Alan Lane's business was saved by a rapid payout

Low success rate on claims

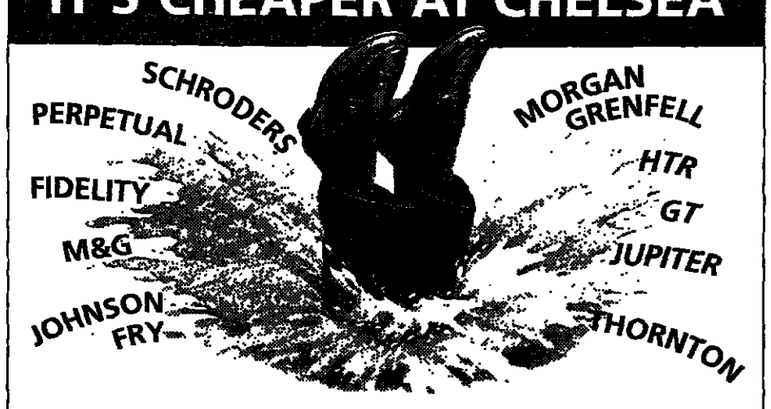
MORE than one in five critical-illness insurance claims are rejected. The most important single reason for not paying out on claims is non-disclosure.

According to a survey from Employers Reassurance International, which reinsures most of the leading insurers, 75 per cent of claims made for permanent and total disability are turned down. Nearly half of those claiming for renal failure are turned down and a quarter of those who claim for heart attacks, strokes or multiple sclerosis are denied their claim. However, only 13 per cent of cancer claims are denied. These claims account for more than 50 per cent of the total. Phil Cleverley, underwriting manager with Employers Re, said: "Our research shows that one third of claims are made within a year of taking out a critical-illness policy. Some people take the attitude that they should just try their luck."

One of the most contentious areas is permanent disability. While most claimants feel if they can no longer do their job they should be able to claim, many policies state if they can do any job, they are disqualified.

HUGH THOMPSON

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Gamble with Ernie — but keep your stake

More than 23 million people hope to win the £1 million top Premium Bond prize. **Anne Ashworth** reports

Q When were Premium Bonds introduced?

A The first draw was held in 1957. The top prize was £1,000. Significant events in Ernie's history to date include his replacement in 1973 by the speedier Ernie Mark II. In 1988, Ernie Mark III capable of completing the draw in less than two hours came into operation.

In 1990, in a bizarre episode, it was alleged that MI5 was using Premium Bond cheques to pay freelance agents. It was claimed that cheques were sent out from the Premium Bond headquarters in Lytham St Annes, Blackpool. The security services then reimbursed National Savings. But the rumour was denied by the Prime Minister, who said there was "no scope for abuse of the system". The Department for National Savings was not asked to investigate further. Today, the department says: "We would have had nothing to tell, other than to comment that the suggestion was pure fantasy." Lord "Lucky" Lucan won £100 in 1980, six years after his disappearance in the wake of the murder of nanny Sandra Rivett. The cash went to creditors.

Q How many bonds can I hold?

A In 1957, the maximum holding was £500; it is now £20,000. The minimum purchase is a relatively steep £100. Purchases above that figure are in multiples of £10. Bonds can be bought by those over 16 only. But parents, grandparents and guardians can buy bonds on behalf of children. Bonds enter the draw once they have been held for a full calendar month.

Q How are the winners selected?

A The prizewinning numbers are chosen by the fabled Ernie, not a computer, but an electronic random number generator. Ernie works by a complex system of electronic noises, generating random numbers by means of a number of tiny Zenit noise diodes.

The noises made by these diodes are converted electronically into the digits that make Premium Bond numbers. Suspicious bondholders will be reassured to learn that, each month, the Government Actuary monitors Ernie's output. The officials carry out statistical tests to check that the letters and figures that make up the winning bond numbers are produced entirely at random, and that each eligible bond number has an equal chance of winning.

Q What prizes are on offer?

A About £24 million a month is paid out in 368,480 prizes (November total). The prize pot is calculated as a variable percentage (currently 5.2 per cent) of the total invested in Premium Bonds. The monthly prize structure was introduced 18 months ago. There is one £1 million prize, two of £100,000, three of £50,000, four of £25,000, ten of £10,000 and 25 of £5,000. In addition, there are about 368,435 prizes of between £50 and £1,000, all free of income tax and capital gains tax.

Q What are the odds of winning a prize?

A The odds of winning any prize are 1 in 15,000 for each single £1 unit. But these widen to 1 in 5.53 billion for the jackpot and 1 in 2.76 billion for a £100,000 prize. They reduce to 1 in 16,211 for a £50 prize.

The law of averages suggests if you hold £1,250 worth of bonds, you should win a prize a year. With the maximum £20,000 holding, you should win 16 prizes a year.

Q How are the odds worked out?

A In the past few weeks, several readers of *The Times* have written questioning these odds statistics, particularly those for the £20,000 holders.

Michael McDade, deputy head of operations at National Savings, explains: "To calculate the average chance, or odds, of winning a prize, the number of eligible bonds is divided by the number of prizes in each draw. For example, in October, the number of eligible bonds was 5,405,981,018, and we paid out 360,398 prizes. Hence each £1 bond had a 1 in 15,000 chance of winning a prize."

He continues: "A number of our customers who hold £20,000 worth of bonds have won more than 16 prizes in a year and a number have won less. It is the average number of prize wins which, for maximum holders, works out at 16 a year. This follows from the fact that, to a sufficient order of approximation, the average number of prize wins is determined by the number of bonds held times the chance of winning times the number of draws, thus: 20,000 x 1/15,000 x 12 equals 16."

Q Why do the newer bonds win all the prizes?

A The conviction that the more recently purchased bonds receive preferential treatment leads many holders to cash in their bonds to buy new ones. However, National Savings points out that there are more prizewinners among the recent bond numbers, because many earlier bonds have been cashed in. Switching from old to new bonds puts you at a disadvantage, as bonds do not enter the draw until they have been held for a full calendar month.

Q Why does Ernie have a bias towards the South?

A The myth of a southern bias holds considerable sway, reinforced by the frequency of Surrey £1 million jackpot winners. Four of the 20 millionaires created to date, including this month's, come from this county. National Savings, however, points to the ownership statistics: southerners win more prizes simply because they hold more bonds. National Savings points out that names and addresses are not stored within Ernie's system.

Q Are Premium Bonds an investment or a form of gambling?

A Premium Bonds are a form of gambling, where your stake is the interest that you forgo on your cash invested in the bonds.

BOND FACTS

THERE are about 23.1 million bondholders, close to half the population. Together they have £5.6 billion invested in bonds, half of which have been bought in the past five years. Since 1957, some £3 billion has been paid out in prizes. Our affection for Ernie does not always extend to providing details of a change of address. As a result, there is close to £13 million in unclaimed prizes. The numbers are listed in the *London Gazette*, available from post offices.

Sales of bonds have prospered since the introduction of the £1 million jackpot in April 1994 and the subsequent launch of the National Lottery, which highlighted one advantage of a Premium Bond win-anonymity.

There are also signs that independent financial advisers are more willingly than formerly to recommend all National Savings schemes. In the past, they were sometimes overlooked, as the Department for National Savings does not offer commission to middlemen. Since April, the numbers with the £20,000 maximum holding have more than doubled from 19,297 to 46,525.

The boom in sales means that Premium Bonds are the principal contributor among National Savings schemes to government funding. Those who despair of their chances will be relieved to learn that only one of the 20 Ernie millionaires has the maximum holding, although the November winner was close, with £19,500. The holder from Gloucestershire who scooped the jackpot in October had £500 of bonds.

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.....(fund)PEP. Please send me the relevant application form together with a note of your discounted terms.

Marianne Curphey on those who change banks

Charges boost army of switchers

Aggressive advertising by banks and a series of highly critical surveys have persuaded tens of thousands of customers to switch current accounts this year.

The Consumers' Association estimates that more than 40 per cent of its members have changed banks because of poor service or high charges, while First Direct, the telephone banking arm of HBSC, claims to have poached about 90,000 customers from high street rivals.

Abbey National says that applications have doubled to 25,000 a month since it relaunched its current account in May, and estimates that 90 per cent are from "switchers".

"Most of our new customers are from other banks," said a spokeswoman for Abbey National. "Our television advertisements have been designed to boost our share of the current account market."

The Abbey's authorised overdraft has no monthly or arrangement fees and has a 9.9 per cent annual percentage rate (APR). Unauthorised borrowing is more costly, at £12 per month plus interest, of 29.5 per cent annualy.

First Direct says that it has been recruiting 10,000 new customers every month for the past ten months and now has a total of 550,000 customers. "Very few of these are new to banking and many have come to us because they are dissatisfied with their current account," a First Direct spokesman said.

So far, First Direct claims 21 per cent of switchers, about 15,000 people, have deserted NatWest for First Direct, compared with nearly 18 per cent (or 13,000) from Barclays and 13 per cent from Lloyds.

First Direct does not charge an overdraft fee for authorised overdrafts up to £250 and charges 16 per cent annually, but charges £35 a month for unauthorised borrowing plus interest at 26 per cent annually.

Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine, claimed this week that millions of people with ordinary bank accounts could be paying too much for overdraft facilities.

None of the big four banks — Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and NatWest — is cheap if you go into the red.

NatWest charges a £9 per month fee for going overdrawn with prior arrangement and interest at 19 per cent annually, or £9 per month for an unauthorised overdraft and interest at 29.5 per cent annually.

The Barclay's fee for arranged borrowing is £5 per month plus 19.2 annually, or 29.8 per cent annually for unauthorised borrowing and a fee of anything from £15 to £30.

NatWest, however, defended its service, saying that switching banks is a common practice and it still has 6.5 million customers who are receiving a good service.

A NatWest spokesman said: "Our charges are clearly marked on our statements. We are trying to discourage customers from becoming overdrawn without making a prior arrangement."

Save & Prosper, which offers a 24-hour banking service, has brought out a free guide to telephone banking available on 0800 329 024 with a table giving details of opening hours and services available from 12 providers. But could a bank-checking agency save you money?

These agencies, which unlike *Which?* make their money from investigating financial complaints against banks, also believe individuals and businesses are still paying too much for services.

One Norwich agency claims that two-thirds of all businesses may be regularly overcharged by banks.

Mark Radin, of Anglia Business Associates Ltd, says that he has secured £330,000 in bank refunds in three years for his clients in Norfolk, but suspects that overcharging takes place on a larger scale across the country, causing cashflow problems or even bankruptcy.

"Check your statements carefully and question any fees which you think are too high," he said. "It is possible the bank may sort out your problem straight away, but sometimes it can take six months to resolve."

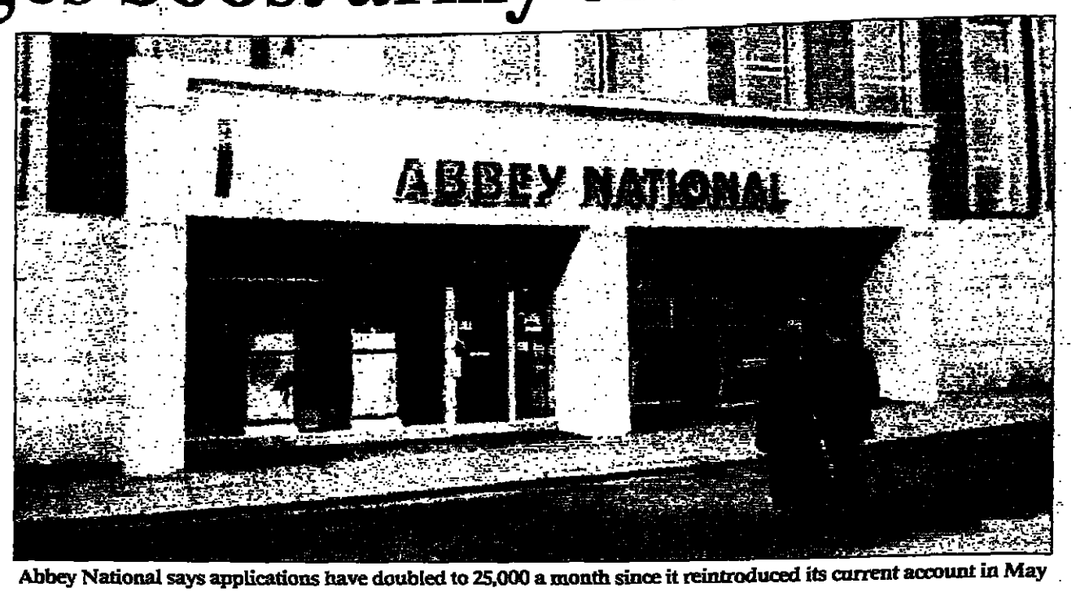
In response, the British Bankers' Association, which represents high street banks, says that banks do make mistakes but customers should approach them first rather than paying an intermediary to pursue a claim on their behalf. A British Bankers' Association spokeswoman dismissed Mr Radin's claims as "scaremongering".

"We dispute the figure of two in three. Overcharging does happen, but so does undercharging and no one complains about that. Errors do occur, for example when a charge of base rate plus three is agreed and them base plus eight is put into the computer by mistake.

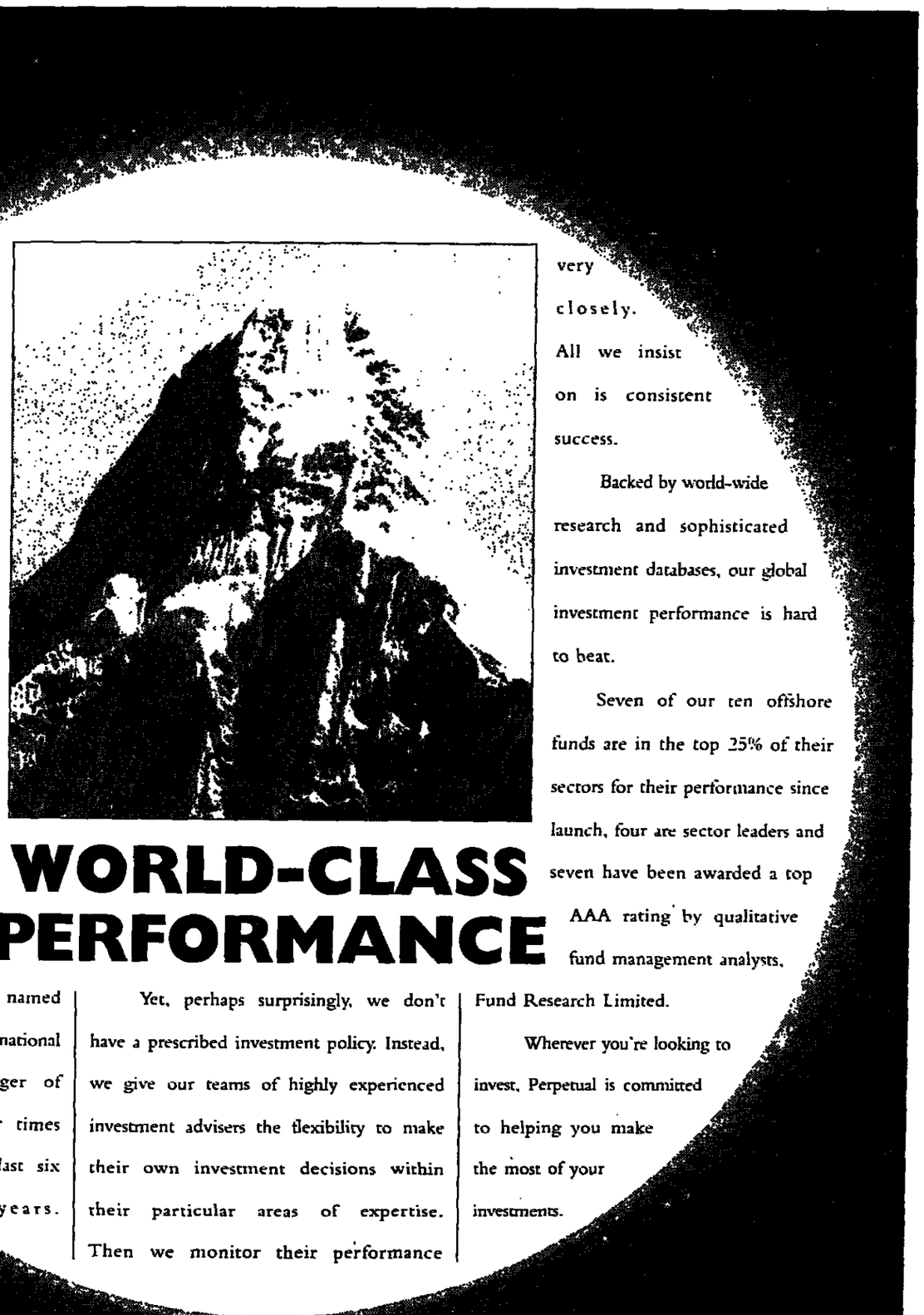
"Checking charges is what accountants are for. If people have a problem they should approach their bank, who will make no charge for investigating the matter."

Mr Radin has been operating on a no-win no-fee basis for three years and takes 35 per cent commission for every successful claim.

Downham Train Epstein, a firm of accountants that is based in Bury, Greater Manchester, blames overcharging on the "obsessive reorganisations and changes" of the banks.



Abbey National says applications have doubled to 25,000 a month since it reintroduced its current account in May



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5 out of 6 funds are in the top 25% of their sectors for their performance over 5 years. Positions are to 1st October 1995 and are on an offer-to-offer US Dollar basis, inclusive of reinvested income, net of withholding taxes (source: Micropal). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up (this may partly be a result of exchange rate fluctuations) and you may not get back the amount invested.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Mitsubishi first to go online

Mitsubishi has launched the world's first online personal finance network service. Infotrade Portfolio provides an information and full share dealing service to the private investor from their home PC. Other facilities include FT-SE indices, current UK share prices and three-year historical company results. The cost of the service is £10 per month, plus a £25 connection fee. The software product itself, provided on CD-Rom, is priced at £69.99 and can be bought directly through BT Telesales on 0800 226600. For further information, contact Infotrade on 0121 717 3768.

■ Allenbridge, analyst of Peps, is providing a free evaluator to help investors with risk assessment when choosing a Corporate Bond Pep. The risks assessed for each fund are: level of liquidity; the spread of investments; credit risk; and sensitivity to interest rate movements. Call freephone 0500 551000.

■ Help the Aged has published a free booklet giving advice to senior citizens on money management. *Thinking About Money* aims to help older people to balance their household budgets and offers practical tips on maximising income and claiming welfare benefit. Available by sending a SAE to Information Department (Money), Help the Aged, St James's Walk, Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0BE, or from all Help the Aged shops.

■ CafCash, a trading subsidiary of the Charities Aid Foundation, has launched a High Interest Cheque Account designed for the banking needs of charities. Special cheque books will enable charitable account-holders to make payments directly to third parties and administration costs will be kept to a minimum. Contact Sue Pavey at CAF on 01732 770114.

■ *Pensions for Women* is a four-page guide published by NatWest Bank providing information on why women need to consider planning for their retirement. Available free on 0800 255 200.

■ The Share Centre is offering a free Christmas album CD to individual investors who pay £37.50 or more in dealing commission between now and December 22. Call 0800 800008 for details.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	Instant Acc	Postal	£250	5.60	Yly
Co-operative Bank 0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.90	Mly
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2438292	Albion	Postal	£10,000	6.00	Yly
Brmnghm Midshires BS 0645 720721	First Class	Postal	£25,000	6.20	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nrwch & Ptrbrgh BS 01733 391497	Fxd Intrst Bond	1yr bond	£5,000	6.65	F/OM
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 244 0357	Investment Bond	2yr bond	£5,000	7.05	F/Yly
Woolwich BS 0800 400900	Fixed Rate Bond	3yr bond	£500	7.25	F/Yly
Brmnghm Midshires BS 0645 720721	Millenium Bond	4yr bond	£5,000	7.75	F/Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS AND BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 948 1444	Postmark	7 day p	£2,500	5.90	Yly
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 50	50 day	£1,000	6.60	Yly
National Counties BS 01372 742211	90 Day	90 day	£20,000	6.70	Yly
Greenwich BS 0181 858 8212	Flagship Term	1 yr bnd	£5,000	7.00	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.98%G	12.40%	Nil C
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Frizzell Bank 0800 373191	MasterCard/Visa	1.17%	16.10%	£11

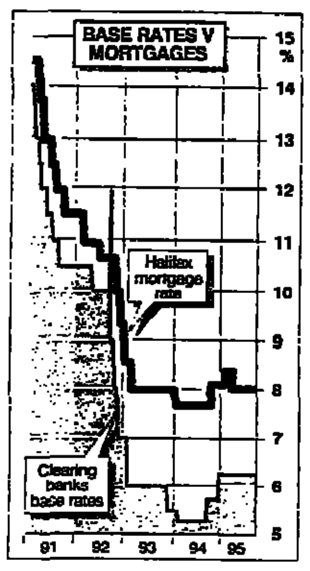
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

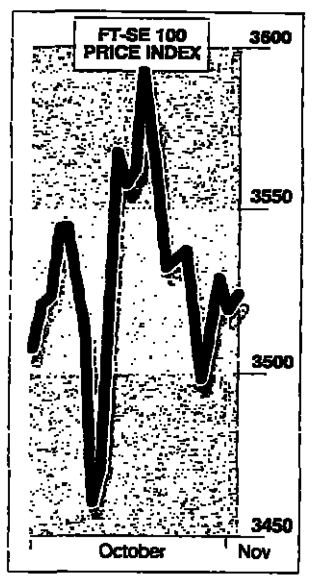
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* ■	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-499	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* ■	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond■	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†■	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.85			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond■ ■	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†■	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2 ■	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000■	60day	01253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free. inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ■Guaranteed when held for 5 years ■0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ■£40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings ■Taxable but cred in full

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£10,377	£11,391	£12,758
Sun Life Canada..Level	£10,255	£11,297	£12,667
Royal Life ....Level	£10,230	£11,361	£12,894
Canada Life..........Level	£10,058	£11,227	£12,810
Standard Life ....Level	£10,136	£11,204	£12,584
SINGLE LIFE	**Female: Age 60**	**Age 65**	**Age 70**
Generali ....Level	£9,246	£10,091	£11,263
Royal Life ....Level	£9,500	£10,330	£11,555
Sun Life Canada..Level	£9,364	£10,143	£11,241
Stalwart ....Level	£9,477	£10,114	£10,992
Prudential ....Level	£9,625	£10,355	£11,428
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	**Male: Age 60 / Female: Age 55**	**Age 65 / Age 60**	**Age 70 / Age 65**
Prudential ....Level	£9,237	£9,803	£10,599
Royal Life ....Level	£9,046	£9,682	£10,593
Equitable Life.......Level	£9,046	£9,563	£10,276
Sun Life Canada..Level	£8,993	£9,588	£10,418
Generali ....Level	£8,929	£9,547	£10,401

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 3393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at November 2, 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	5,000	AIG Life	5.10
	10,000	AIG Life	5.15
	20,000	AIG Life	5.20
	50,000	AIG Life	5.25
2 Years	1,000	Premium Life	5.50
	10,000	AIG Life	5.63
	20,000	AIG Life	5.73
	50,000	AIG Life	5.78
3 Years	1,000	Premium Life	5.60
	20,000	AIG Life	5.67
	50,000	AIG Life	5.72
	100,000	AIG Life	5.82
4 Years	1,000	Premium Life	5.90
	20,000	AIG Life	5.82
	50,000	AIG Life	5.87
5 Years	3,000	Abbey Life	6.85
	15,000	Abbey Life	7.05
	50,000	Abbey Life	7.25

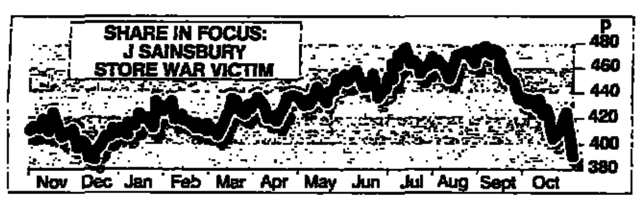
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net of 25% tax (which cannot be reclaimed). Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	95.81	9.777	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	117.83	9.851	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	131.57	9.864	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	134.14	9.959	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	129.86	9.991	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	121.34	9.973	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	111.31	10.553	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	90.32	9.687	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	122.95	9.591	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	140.13	9.703	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	133.72	9.981	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	109.91	9.772	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	128.99	9.773	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	130.97	9.620	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	129.64	9.912	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	9.30000%	100.75	100.00	1,000
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.99	neg	95	6% disc 1 year, 2% disc 18 mths
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.95	£15k+	90	Fxd to 30.11.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	1.99	to £100k	90	6% discount to 1.2.97
Banks				
National Westminst 0121 234 2000	2.79	£15k+	75	5.20% discount for 12 months
Midland 0800 494 999	2.79	£100k+	80	4.86% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.75	15,001 to £100k	95	7.24% - 6 mths, 2% 6mth,0.5% 1y
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.75	to £150k	70	Fixed to 1.9.96
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.95	£15k+	90	Fxd to 30.11.96
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.51%dsc-6 mns 3% dsc-6 mns
Bank of Sctland 0131 243 5735	1.50	to £200k	95	6.49% discount for 6 months

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	3.00	£15k+	95	4.74% discount for 1 year
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	1.89	none	95	Fixed to 1.10.96
Skipton 0800 446776	1.84	£25-150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Midland Bank 0800 494999	3.29	£30k+	95	4.36% discount for 1 year
Royal Bank Scot 0131 523 4442	4.74	£15-£150k	95	3.25% discount to 1.10.96

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	502.20	531.50	+3.20	
UK Equity	637.40	674.60	+5.00	
Property	508.00	537.60	+0.60	
Fixed Interest	341.80	361.70	+3.70	
Money	259.30	274.40	+0.20	
International	425.70	450.50	+4.20	
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	248.50	261.60	...	0
-do- Acc	489.30	515.10	...	
Equity Fd Inc	186.40	196.30	+1.20	
-do- Acc	255.70	269.20	+1.50	
Selective Fd	513.10	540.20	+2.00	
Money Fd	392.40	413.10	+0.30	
Prop Fd Ser 4	374.40	394.20	...	
Equity Ser 4	239.80	252.50	+1.10	
Man Ser 4	701.40	738.40	+6.40	
Conv Ser 4	339.90	357.80	+0.10	
Money Ser 4	339.60	357.50	+0.20	
Fixed Int Ser 4	364.80	384.10	+3.50	
American Ser 4	564.30	594.00	+18.30	
High Inc Ser 4	745.00	784.30	+3.40	
Indexed Inv Ser 4	221.80	233.50	+1.20	
Japan Ser 4	332.70	350.30	+3.30	
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1676.60	1764.80	+10.90	
European Fd Acc	398.60	419.50	+4.90	
Fixed Int Acc	537.50	565.70	+5.30*	
Gilt Money Acc	345.50	363.70	+0.40	
Intl Managed Acc	633.00	666.20	+6.80	
Int Fxd Int Acc	349.20	367.50	-0.60	
Japan Fund	244.20	257.00	+2.50	
N American Acc	361.60	380.60	+14.30	
Prop Fd Acc	453.50	477.30	+0.50	
Multiple Inv Acc	1093.50	1151.00	+7.70	
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	386.60	407.00	+0.30	
Equity Acc	1520.40	1600.50	+8.60	
Property Acc	603.80	635.60	+2.70	
Far East Acc	308.80	325.10	-1.20	
Managed Capital	563.60	593.50	+3.30	
-do- Acc	1170.40	1232.00	+7.40	
Overseas Acc	1030.50	1084.80	+7.20	
Gilt Edged Acc	516.80	544.00	+7.10	
Amer Equity Acc	912.40	960.50	+21.20	
Amer Man Acc	383.50	403.70	+8.10	
Amer Prop Acc	118.80	125.10	-0.30	
Distribution Bonds	24.50	25.80	-0.30	
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	167.40	176.20	+1.20	
Balcd Ser 6	770.70	811.20	+9.10	
Opportunity Ser 6	175.60	184.80	+1.40	
Distribution Ser 6	101.80	107.10	-0.60	6.97
UK Equities Ser 6	1075.40	1131.90	+7.30	
Higher Inc Ser 6	1138.90	1198.80	+2.20	
North Amer Ser 6	536.00	564.20	+22.10	
Far East Ser 6	557.70	587.00	+1.80	
Europe Ser 6	413.90	435.60	+6.10	
Intnl Ser 6	608.50	640.50	+11.30	
Property Ser 6	566.50	596.30	+4.80	
Fixed Int Ser 6	465.70	490.20	+4.30	
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	190.00	199.90	+0.90	
Gteed Dep Ser 6	308.20	324.40	+0.10	
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	925.30	974.10	+8.00	
-do- Initial	591.90	623.10	+5.10	
Gilt Edged Acc	408.10	429.60	+1.70	
-do- Initial	263.30	277.20	+3.00	
International Acc	422.10	444.40	+5.10	
-do- Initial	270.60	284.90	+3.20	
Managed Acc	563.90	593.50	+5.20	
-do- Initial	362.80	381.90	+3.40	
Money Acc	301.30	317.20	+0.20	
Property Acc	305.10	321.20	-1.90	
-do- Initial	195.30	205.60	-1.30	
America Acc	325.90	343.10	+9.70	
Australia Acc	222.70	234.50	+4.80	
Financial Acc	397.90	418.80	+6.00	
500 Accum	474.30	499.70	-0.60	
Japan Genl Acc	299.90	315.70	+3.10	
Income Acc	562.20	591.80	+3.90	
Leisure Acc	271.00	285.30	+2.60	
Special Sits Acc	266.90	281.00	+2.90	
Univ Tech Acc	177.80	187.20	+3.30	
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	859.37	859.37	+2.56	
Income Fund	820.74	863.93	-0.43	
Extra Income	749.54	788.99	+0.45	
Worldwide Gth	507.22	533.92	-1.30	
Balanced Fund	717.37	755.13	-1.00	
Smllr Cos Recov	853.80	898.74	-1.14	
N Amer & Genl	396.07	416.92	-1.79	
Pacific Basin	413.45	435.22	+6.87	
German Growth	245.30	258.22	-2.00	
Japan Growth	182.57	192.18	-0.70	
The UK Gth Fd	229.75	241.85	-0.49	
Contl Euro Gth	143.70	151.27	+1.38	
Property Fund	413.92	435.71	-0.77	
Fixed Interest	331.13	348.56	+4.12	
Cash Fund	293.29	308.73	+0.24	
Managed Inv	517.86	545.11	+1.54	
Nth Amer Recov	272.16	286.49	+3.46	
Abtrust Fund Managed Gth	516.91	544.12	-0.98	
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 868000				
Measured Perf	171.30	181.20	+3.00	
Performance Plus	178.60	188.90	+6.60	
With Profit Perf	178.00	188.30	+0.10	
UK Opportunity	200.10	211.70	+3.10	
Euro Opportunity	238.50	252.30	+5.90	
North Amer Opp	185.10	195.80	+10.60	
Far East Opp	194.40	205.70	-6.80	
Gwth Prop Ser 1	138.00	136.90	...	
Gilt Prop Ser 2	177.70	188.00	+0.30	
Fixed Int	206.40	218.40	+1.20	
Cash	162.70	172.10	+0.20	6.74
Overseas	205.50	217.70	+7.60	
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	363.10	382.30	-4.50	
UK Equity	627.30	660.40	-3.20	
Property	255.00	268.50	-2.70	
Money Market	260.60	274.40	+0.20	
Fixed Interest	308.50	324.80	+2.90	
Japan	342.30	360.40	+4.50	
North America	172.70	181.80	+8.80	
International	327.10	344.40	+6.90	
European	310.90	327.30	+5.60	
Far East	138.30	145.60	+0.10	
CANADA LIFE 26 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth ‡	277.80	...	...	
Managed	352.20	370.80	+0.60	
Property	240.00	252.70	+0.30	
Gilt & Fxd Int	254.10	267.50	+3.20	
Equity	401.50	422.70	-1.50	
Cash	223.00	234.80	+0.20	
CLife Euro Mgd	408.40	429.90	+2.50	
CLife Intl Fd	370.20	389.70	+4.80	
Managed Fund	765.20	805.20	+6.50	
Property Fund	551.30	580.50	+0.60	
Equity Fund	1001.10	1053.80	+9.20	
Gilt Edged Fd	647.20	681.30	+4.90	
Deposit Fund	341.80	359.80	+0.20	
Investment Fd	430.00	451.50	+3.70	
International	574.90	605.20	+7.70	
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	162.10	170.70	...	
Managed Fund	671.80	707.20	+2.50	
Equity Fund	392.90	413.60	+0.90	
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	305.60	321.70	+2.50	
Ruby	183.10	192.80	+1.80	
Emerald	152.00	160.00	+0.90	
Equity	351.20	369.70	+1.70	
Property	231.70	243.90	-2.50	
Gilt & Fixed Int	215.20	226.60	+2.10	
Indexed Secs	176.90	186.30	+1.00	
Cash	194.60	204.70	+0.20	
Nth American	257.40	271.00	+8.70	
Far East	324.40	341.50	-4.40	
International	248.80	261.90	+4.30	
Special Sits	373.90	393.20	+3.10	
Intl Income	312.30	328.80	+1.40	
American Inc	215.70	227.10	+4.60	
European	349.70	368.20	+6.60	
Japanese	128.50	135.30	+1.30	
SE Asia	372.10	391.70	+5.60	
With Profits Brg	174.50	183.70	+0.30	
-do- Spec	174.50	183.70	+0.30	
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	350.70	369.20	+3.00	
Equity	424.40	446.80	+2.90	
Property	211.80	223.00	-0.10	
Gilt & Fixed Int	272.60	287.00	+2.70	
Index Linked	187.30	197.20	+1.30	
Cash	263.00	276.90	+0.30	
Nth American	319.80	336.70	+11.00	
Far East Acc	303.00	319.00	+0.90	
International Acc	316.60	333.30	+4.50	
Special Sits	557.40	586.80	+6.80	
European Flex	495.30	521.40	+5.60	
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units): Key ‡	225.69	...	...	
-do- Pacemaker ‡	329.13	...	...	
-do- Cash	209.98	221.03	+0.15	
-do- Equity	577.27	607.65	+3.51	
-do- Fxd Int	378.55	398.47	+5.84	
-do- Managed	413.71	435.48	+2.64	
-do- Property	282.81	297.69	-0.20	
(Pens): Cash Cap	211.24	222.37	-0.09	
-do- Cash Inv	319.30	336.11	+0.36	
-do- Equity Cap	£15.04	£15.83	+9.85	
-do- Equity Inv	£22.73	£23.93	+16.49	
-do- Fixed Cap	409.85	431.43	+5.15	
-do- Fixed Inv	619.49	652.11	+8.33	
-do- Index Cap	207.16	218.08	+1.58	
-do- Index Inv	313.13	329.62	+2.61	
-do- Mngd Cap	601.84	633.53	+4.84	
-do- Mngd Inv	909.68	957.57	+7.95	
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	789.78	...	+11.03	
Var Ann (5) ‡	99.00	...	+0.91	
Prime Managed	431.00	453.70	+3.30	
Prime UK Equity	534.10	562.30	+2.80	
Prime Intl Equity	312.30	328.70	+5.40	
Prime Property	252.60	265.90	+0.30	
Prime Fxd Int	244.30	257.20	+1.80	
Prime Index-Lnk	178.60	188.10	+1.70	
Prime Cash	213.90	225.20	+0.10	
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744940				
Managed Fund	1186.00	1248.40	-7.00	
Equity Fund	1734.40	1825.60	-14.10	
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 01483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	635.70	668.90	...	
Life Fxd Int Acc	393.70	414.40	+4.10	
Life Equity Acc	907.00	954.30	-0.60	
Life Money Acc	310.60	326.00	+0.20	
Life Inv Tst Acc	831.00	874.70	+9.30	
Life Intl Acc	514.70	541.50	+0.40	
Life High Inc Acc	850.20	894.50	-2.30	
Life Property Acc	244.70	257.50	-4.60	
Crown Brit Inv A	1416.60	...	...	
Brewin Equity	775.40	816.20	-3.50	
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Secure Fund	182.00	191.60	-0.20	
Managed Fund	255.40	268.90	+1.80	
-do- Series 2	169.10	178.00	-1.20	
Adventurous Fd	210.70	221.80	+2.30	
-do- Series 2	163.00	171.60	+1.90	
Equity Mngd Fd	253.70	267.10	+3.40	
-do- Series 2	169.90	178.90	+2.30	
UK Pref Fxd Int	151.50	159.50	+2.00	
UK Equity Fund	179.30	188.80	-0.80	
Property Fund	121.60	128.10	+0.30	
Envrnmntl Opps	176.40	185.70	-1.10	
Euro Fund	201.10	211.70	+4.10	
North Amer Fd	219.50	231.10	+7.10	
Oriental Ops	228.90	241.00	-2.50	
Japanese Fund	112.70	118.70	+0.60	
Bri & West Life	129.40	136.30	-0.10	
Bri & West Pen	148.70	156.60	-0.20	
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	293.30	303.90	-2.70	3.01
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	326.20	343.40	+2.80	
UK Equity	438.20	461.30	+3.90	
Stewardship	378.60	398.60	-0.90	
Overseas Equity	300.30	316.20	+3.60	
North American	166.20	175.00	+4.50	
Pacific Basin	165.60	174.40	-0.30	
European	247.30	260.40	+4.00	
Property	190.50	200.60	-3.20	
Fixed Interest	250.50	263.70	+2.90	
Index Linked	176.60	185.90	+1.00	
Cash	207.80	218.80	+0.20	
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	569.10	599.00	+4.20	
Managed	733.40	772.00	+6.40	
Deposit	353.10	371.60	-0.20	
Property	480.40	505.60	-7.80	
American	468.40	493.00	+13.40	
Australian	541.90	570.40	+11.70	
European	598.20	629.60	+9.60	
Income Acc	803.60	845.80	+6.30	
-do- Dist	468.90	493.60	+4.70	4.63
International	325.60	342.70	+4.10	
Japan Smaller	445.20	468.60	+1.00	
Singapore & Mal	383.40	403.50	-2.70	
Smaller Cos	420.80	442.90	+3.80	
Tokyo Fund	631.80	665.00	+4.00	
UK Equity	622.00	654.70	+5.70	
CCM Vangd Mg	804.50	846.80	+0.60	
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	316.20	332.90	-2.40	
GT Plan Wwide	507.30	534.00	+8.20	
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	728.30	728.30	+6.90	
-do- Inv A	728.20	766.60	+7.30	
UK Equity	442.30	465.70	+3.90	
Gilt Plus	212.60	223.90	+2.30	
Managed	325.60	342.90	+3.40	
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	223.90	235.50	+1.50	
Unitised Profit	145.60	153.30	+0.20	
UK Equity	311.90	328.30	+1.50	
Fixed Int	204.40	215.00	+2.80	
Index-Linked	173.40	182.40	+1.40	
Cash Deposit	180.00	189.30	+0.10	
Property	182.80	192.30	...	
International	179.00	188.30	+1.50	
American	182.40	191.90	+4.60	
Japan	231.90	244.00	+1.40	
Japan Smllr Cos	237.40	249.80	+1.30	
European	193.90	204.00	-2.60	
Pacific Fund	286.80	301.80	-0.30	
Conv Life	137.00	144.10	+1.00	
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	840.30	875.30	+1.40	
Managed Initial	493.40	519.40	+5.50	
-do- Acc	718.20	756.00	+8.30	
Equity Initial	755.60	795.40	+7.30	
-do- Acc	1099.90	1157.80	+11.10	
Fixed Int Initial	458.30	482.40	+8.30	
-do- Acc	667.00	702.20	+12.40	
Intl Initial	474.50	499.50	+4.00	
-do- Acc	690.60	727.00	+6.10	
Nth Amer Initial	211.10	222.20	+7.10	
-do- Acc	279.70	294.40	-9.60	
Pacific Initial	232.30	244.50	+2.00	
-do- Acc	304.90	320.90	-2.80	
Property Initial	180.50	190.00	-1.10	
-do- Acc	262.70	276.50	-1.00	
Index-Lnkd Intl	165.70	174.40	+2.00	
-do- Acc	219.50	231.00	+2.70	
Deposit Initial	200.80	211.30	+0.10	
-do- Acc	292.20	307.60	+0.30	
Euro Initial	112.60	118.40	+2.00	
-do- Acc	137.80	145.00	-2.50	
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	26.84	28.25	+0.03	
Balanced	27.15	28.56	+0.15	
Opportunity	27.54	28.99	+0.10	
Deposit	24.43	25.72	+0.02	
Pension Funds				
Foundation	27.25	28.68	+0.02	
Balanced	27.33	28.77	-0.12	
Opportunity	27.97	29.44	-0.16	
Deposit	24.70	26.00	+0.03	
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	179.10	188.50	+0.60	
-do- Pens	222.40	234.10	+0.80	
UK Equity	186.80	196.60	+0.30	
-do- Pens	217.00	228.40	-0.40	
International	154.00	162.10	-0.60	
-do- Pens	168.30	177.10	-0.60	
Deposit	143.90	151.40	+0.10	
-do- Pens	172.30	181.30	+0.30	
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	381.60	406.00	+0.40	
North America	401.90	427.60	+10.00	
Far East Fund	580.70	617.80	-0.30	
Global Managed	492.40	523.90	+3.80	
Deposit Fund	236.90	249.40	+0.20	
Prime Residential	139.50	146.90	-0.50	
European Fund	283.40	301.50	+3.50	
Fixed Interest	64.80	68.90	+0.90	
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	570.40	603.60	+1.80	
British Fund	583.00	617.00	+4.60	
International	583.80	617.80	+8.00	
Dollar Fund	462.40	489.40	+15.10	
Capital Fund	522.60	553.10	+4.30	
Income Fund	749.70	793.40	+4.10	
Property Series A	467.30	494.50	-6.20	4.50
Property Units	772.50	811.20	+10.20	
Financial Fund	660.90	699.40	+12.70	
Managed Ser A	582.30	616.20	+5.10	
Managed Units	1045.70	1100.80	+9.20	
High Yield Fund	685.60	725.60	+4.60	
Money Series A	299.10	316.60	-0.30	
Money Units	397.70	418.70	+0.30	
Equity Fund	665.70	704.50	+5.50	
Fixed Interest	385.80	408.30	+5.00	
Indexed Secs	196.30	207.80	+2.10	
European Fund	788.30	834.20	+12.40	
Natural Res	301.10	318.70	-2.80	
Far East Fund	648.80	686.60	+2.30	
Smaller Cos	538.30	569.70	-2.10	
Special Sits	520.20	550.50	+6.60	
Man Currency	274.90	290.90	+1.30	
Japanese Tech	305.60	323.40	+1.40	
US Smaller Cos	324.90	343.90	+10.00	
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	257.40	271.10	-0.20	
Financial Ser 1	54.20	58.00	+1.00	
Fixed Interest	345.50	363.80	+3.50	
Gold	81.00	85.40	-0.80	
Managed	647.90	682.10	-1.40	
Mngd Growth	205.60	216.50	-4.60	
Mngd Opp	217.20	228.80	-4.90	
Property	329.50	346.80	...	
Residential Prop	104.00	109.60	+0.80	
TSB American	237.60	250.20	+8.50	
TSB Brit Gwth	943.50	993.20	+3.20	
TSB European	282.30	297.30	-4.00	
TSB Income	408.70	430.30	-0.60	
TSB Intl	447.80	471.50	+7.80	
TSB Intl Inc	308.70	325.10	+1.80	
TSB Pacific	401.10	422.40	-0.30	
TSB Prem Inc	268.20	280.30	+2.10	
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	613.60	645.90	+2.30	
Global Property	310.00	326.30	+1.80	
Global Fixed Int	541.20	569.70	+7.80	
Global Equity	663.20	698.10	+1.50	
Global Cash	221.50	233.20	+0.20	
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	499.60	525.80	-0.80	
Managed	444.00	467.30	+4.70	
American	475.10	500.10	+17.40	
UK Equity Fd	488.30	513.90	+4.00	
Japan	199.70	210.20	+1.40	
Index-Lkd	193.60	203.70	+1.10	
High Yield	917.90	966.20	+6.00	
Money	417.70	439.60	+0.30	
International	412.20	433.80	+6.30	
Henderson Active	216.90	228.30	-0.60	
Perpetual Active	347.20	365.40	+0.90	
Growth Acc	694.50	731.00	-7.10	
Gilt Edged	454.20	478.10	+3.90	
European	165.20	173.80	+2.40	
Far East	209.10	220.10	+1.20	
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Inh	134.80	141.90	...	
-do- Acc	191.80	201.90	+0.10	
Brit Opps Int	155.20	163.40	+0.50	
-do- Acc	198.10	208.60	+1.30	
Cash Initial	168.70	177.60	-0.40	
-do- Acc	298.50	314.30	+0.10	
Equity Initial	699.60	736.50	+0.30	
-do- Acc	1238.00	1303.20	-3.90	
Fixed Initial	355.10	373.80	+2.40	
-do- Acc	628.40	661.50	+5.90	
Index-Lnkd Gilt	136.80	144.00	+0.60	
-do- Acc	206.60	217.50	+1.60	
Intl Initial	326.70	343.90	+2.90	
-do- Acc	569.20	599.20	+6.70	
Managed Initial	494.20	520.30	+1.40	
-do- Acc	874.40	920.50	+4.80	
Property Initial	217.80	229.30	-1.50	
-do- Acc	385.40	405.70	-1.60	
LINCOLN NATIONAL 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 0181 902 8876				
Equity Units ‡	#137.31	...	+0.30	
Property Units ‡	#27.13	...	+0.14	
Bal Bd Exec Unit	69.98	73.67	+0.39	
2nd Equity Acc	672.10	707.50	+1.40	
2nd High Inc Acc	642.40	676.20	+2.40	
2nd Property Acc	248.10	261.10	+1.10	
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	188.20	198.20	+0.90	
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	489.30	515.10	+2.50	
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	242.00	254.70	+1.20	
2nd Deposit Acc	294.10	309.60	+0.20	
2nd Gilt Acc	324.20	341.20	+4.10	
2nd Amer Acc	838.10	882.20	+29.10	
2nd Intl Mny Acc	270.50	284.70	-3.60	
2nd Index Acc	215.90	227.30	+0.60	
2nd Far East Acc	434.50	457.40	-0.30	
2nd Global Acc	185.20	194.90	+2.40	
2nd Euro Acc	170.30	179.30	+0.50	
2nd Japan Acc	182.70	192.40	+1.10	
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	171.10	180.20	-0.90	
2nd Cap Gth Acc	134.40	141.50	+0.20	
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 9279179				
Equity ‡	947.80	...	+1.80	
Fixed Interest ‡	448.50	...	+5.60	
Property ‡	428.10	...	+0.70	
Deposit ‡	303.80	...	+0.20	
Mixed ‡	627.80	...	+3.40	
Indexed Stock ‡	224.80	...	+2.20	
International ‡	304.90	...	+4.10	
Equity A ‡	219.70	...	+0.50	
Fixed Int A ‡	198.80	...	+2.50	
Property A ‡	188.00	...	+0.30	
Deposit A ‡	178.40	...	+0.10	
Mixed A ‡	206.10	...	+1.10	
Index Stock A ‡	175.90	...	+1.80	
International A ‡	190.30	...	+2.60	
Equity P ‡	282.90	...	+1.10	
Fixed Int P ‡	598.00	...	+8.00	
Property P ‡	332.30	...	...	
Deposit P ‡	361.30	...	+0.80	
Mixed P ‡	576.30	...	+3.30	
Index Stock P ‡	258.10	...	+2.30	
International P ‡	356.10	...	+6.00	
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap ‡	589.30	...	...	
-do- Acc ‡	1027.50	...	+0.90	
Property Cap ‡	145.00	...	-0.40	
-do- Acc ‡	242.60	...	-0.40	
Fxd Interest Cap ‡	197.70	...	+1.90	
-do- Acc ‡	332.70	...	+3.30	
Equity Cap ‡	336.30	...	+0.90	
-do- Acc ‡	574.40	...	+2.00	
Internatl Cap ‡	233.10	...	+0.40	
-do- Acc ‡	394.20	...	+1.10	
Gtd Deposit Cap ‡	163.40	...	-0.10	
-do- Acc ‡	272.30	...	+0.10	7.20
Flexible Cap ‡	354.30	...	-1.00	
-do- Acc ‡	603.30	...	-2.20	
Moneymaker Fd ‡	466.80	...	+2.00	
Capital Growth ‡	1866.90	...	+6.60	
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	471.20	494.80	-16.60	
Amer Rec Bond	525.80	552.20	+12.10	
Am Smlr Cos Bd	253.40	266.20	-5.50	
Australasia Bd	229.60	241.30	+2.10	
Commodity Bond	327.60	344.00	+9.20	
Deposit Bond Acc	373.90	392.70	+0.30	
Equity Bond Acc	1634.80	1716.70	-13.30	
European Bd Acc	408.80	429.40	+1.20	
Extra Yld Bd Acc	820.10	861.20	+23.10	
Far East Bd Acc	305.40	320.70	-1.50	
Gilt Bond Acc	462.90	486.10	+5.60	
Gold Bond Acc	154.40	162.20	+3.30	
High Yield Bond	354.00	371.80	+3.80	
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	218.70	229.80	+1.10	
International Bd	785.90	825.30	+6.50	
Japan Bond Acc	233.00	244.70	-2.00	
Japan Sm Cos Ac	222.90	234.20	-6.20	
Managed Bonds	937.50	984.50	+3.20	
Prop Bond Acc	350.60	368.20	+3.40	
Rec Bond Acc	833.10	874.80	+7.80	
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	241.00	253.70	+1.90	
UK Equity Acc	351.00	369.50	+3.00	
Special Sits	98.20	103.40	+0.60	
Special Sits Acc	143.10	150.70	+1.00	
North American	200.70	211.30	+5.40	
N American Acc	292.40	307.80	+8.00	
Pacific Basin	355.20	373.90	+2.00	
Pacific Basin Acc	517.50	544.80	+3.30	
Fixed Interest	289.40	304.70	+2.80	
Fixed Interest Acc	422.00	444.30	+4.30	
Property	178.60	188.00	+0.10	
Property Acc	260.40	274.20	+0.30	
Deposit	153.20	161.30	...	
Deposit Acc	223.60	235.40	+0.20	
Managed	272.50	286.90	+2.40	
Managed Acc	365.90	385.20	+3.60	
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomew House, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	428.40	450.90	-2.50	
UK Equity	390.30	410.80	+1.20	
Gilt Edged	602.90	634.60	+3.40	
Interest Fund	403.30	424.50	-0.80	
Managed Fd	519.20	546.50	-1.90	
Intl Equity	620.20	652.80	+4.20	
North American	233.80	246.10	+4.80	
Far East	448.30	471.80	-3.70	
Intl Currency	263.50	277.30	-0.90	
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	521.10	548.50	+2.90	
UK Equity	670.20	705.40	+2.70	
Overseas Equity	507.00	533.60	+6.50	
American	458.60	482.70	+8.70	
Far East	558.00	587.40	+3.10	
Property	218.30	229.70	-2.80	
Fixed Interest	412.10	433.70	+5.10	
Indexed Gilt	244.20	257.00	+2.00	
Deposit	224.60	236.40	+0.20	
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 148, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1538.30	1619.30	+9.80	
Equity Fund	3401.30	3580.30	+11.60	
Property Fd	587.70	618.60	-0.90	
Fixed Int Fd	634.90	668.30	+17.40	
Deposit Fund	363.10	382.20	+0.30	
Ind Fund	258.40	272.00	+2.50	
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	317.70	335.20	+1.40	
Fxd Interest Acc	254.20	268.20	+3.40	
International Acc	259.10	273.40	+4.60	
Managed Acc	229.30	241.90	+1.20	
Property Acc	219.10	231.20	-0.20	
Money Acc	160.40	169.20	...	
Spec Mkt Acc	218.80	230.90	+1.30	
Japan Equity Acc	111.10	117.20	+2.70	
N Amer Acc	165.90	175.00	+4.90	
Pacific Acc	150.90	159.20	+1.20	
European Acc	187.30	197.60	+1.60	
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	149.00	156.90	+0.20	
Prop Acc (Gross)	334.10	351.70	+0.40	
Inv Equity	1295.60	1363.80	+9.10	
Inv Managed	906.40	954.20	+8.10	
Ret Managed	1027.30	1081.40	+9.50	
PROVIDENT MUTUAL Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2ST 01438 732000				
Managed Ord	508.80	535.60	+2.10	
Managed Initial	333.10	350.60	+1.10	
Equity Ord	788.10	829.60	+2.50	
Equity Init	515.90	543.10	+1.40	
I-Linked Gilt Ord	210.70	221.80	+1.60	
I-Linked Gilt Init	144.10	151.70	+1.10	
Oseas Equity Ord	394.70	415.50	+3.10	
Oseas Equity Init	258.40	272.00	+1.90	
Property Ord	278.90	293.60	-1.00	
Property Init	182.50	192.10	-0.90	
Fixed Int Ord	298.00	313.70	+3.60	
Fixed Int Init	195.10	205.40	+2.20	
Deposit Ord	214.00	225.30	+0.20	
Deposit Initial	140.10	147.50	+0.10	
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	372.90	388.50	+0.10	
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	867.50	913.20	+5.10	
Equity Fund	1673.00	1761.10	+6.70	
Intl Fund	671.20	706.60	+7.20	
Fixed Interest	598.60	630.20	+6.10	
Property Fund	492.40	518.40	...	
Cash Fund	377.60	397.50	+0.50	
Pacific Basin	370.20	389.70	+4.30	
N American Fd	304.00	320.10	+6.30	
Euro Fund	295.50	311.10	+4.40	
Balanced Fund	169.70	178.70	+1.10	
Strategic Fund	180.20	189.70	+1.20	
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) ‡	814.80	...	...	
-do- Acc	475.80	500.80	...	
Op Prop	484.10	509.50	+2.60	
Op Equity	1073.90	1130.40	+10.00	
Op High Yield	625.60	658.50	+4.40	
Op Managed	874.10	920.00	+5.50	
Op Deposit	407.30	428.70	+0.40	
Inc Gth	327.40	344.60	+2.60	
Japan Smlr	236.60	249.00	-2.70	
Managed Gth	287.00	302.10	-18.60	
Gilt	85.30	89.70	-0.80	
British	392.80	413.40	-25.00	
Global Bond	123.00	129.40	-0.70	
Global Inc & Gth	179.60	189.00	+2.00	
Gold Share	80.50	84.70	+0.60	
High Income	319.60	336.40	+6.20	
Income	471.30	496.00	+5.00	
Japan	404.20	425.40	+4.30	
UK Smlr Cos	388.00	408.40	+7.50	
Mngd Growth	492.70	518.60	+3.00	
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	1043.10	1103.80	+2.70	
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	413.80	435.50	+2.50	
Equity Fund	598.50	629.90	+3.70	
Property Fund	333.40	350.90	+0.10	
International	506.00	532.60	+4.10	
Pacific Basin	258.30	271.80	...	
United States	302.60	318.50	+9.60	
Gilt Fund	389.80	410.00	+4.00	
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	815.80	863.30	+6.10	2.48
Deposit Fund (2)	388.40	411.10	+0.40	7.07
Gilt Fund	551.90	584.10	+6.10	8.03
Global Equity Fd	246.80	261.20	+2.30	
Property Fund (4)	116.30	123.10	...	7.11
AG Bond Fund	152.40	161.30	-1.10	
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	645.60	679.60	-0.10	
Fixed Interest	394.30	415.10	+5.20	
Index-Linked	205.20	216.10	+0.70	
International	479.70	505.00	-0.20	
Property	305.20	321.30	+0.40	
Cash	238.50	251.10	-0.20	
Managed	502.30	528.80	-0.50	
Cap Gteed Bd	124.90	131.50	...	
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	188.059	197.956	+0.17	
Index-Linked	170.60	179.70	+0.80	
Fixed Interest	186.40	196.30	+4.40	
Mixed	275.40	290.00	+1.60	
UK Equity	263.70	277.70	-0.30	
International	271.60	286.00	+3.70	
American	296.90	312.60	+6.30	
Japan	221.80	233.50	-1.30	
European	283.40	298.40	+5.90	
Pacific	349.70	368.10	-4.70	
Technology	457.00	481.20	+12.70	
Frgn Bd/Crrcy	245.70	258.80	-0.10	
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	224.10	236.00	-0.50	
UK Equity	387.20	407.60	+0.30	
American	283.40	298.40	+6.60	
Pacific	343.50	361.60	-2.90	
European	508.00	534.90	+2.60	
International	327.50	344.90	+4.00	
Fixed Interest	249.00	262.30	+3.50	
Index Linked	207.40	218.40	+1.80	
Deposit	202.00	212.80	-0.20	
Managed	306.60	322.80	+1.40	
Worldwide	125.50	132.20	+0.50	
Pen Worldwide	134.00	141.10	+0.70	
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1817.70	1673.90	...	
Safety Fund	250.60	263.80	+2.20	
Growth Fund	249.30	262.50	-2.60	
Opportunity Fd	249.70	262.90	+1.80	
Cash Fund	180.40	189.90	+0.10	
European Fund	369.00	388.50	+7.50	
Gilts & Fxd Int	212.80	224.10	+4.10	
Index-Linked Fd	190.70	200.80	+2.30	
International Fd	299.00	314.80	+4.30	
North American	267.50	281.60	+9.50	
Property Fund	129.10	135.90	...	
UK Equity	268.70	282.90	+1.90	
UK Smaller	263.40	277.30	+1.70	
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	288.60	303.90	+1.80	
Equity	308.20	324.60	+0.80	
International	277.50	292.20	+3.80	
Property	233.40	245.80	-0.60	
Fixed Interest	329.40	341.50	+0.20	
Index Linked	189.60	199.70	+1.10	
Cash	192.90	203.10	+0.10	
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	860.20	915.20	+5.40	
Cash Fund	350.80	369.70	+0.30	
Property Fund	299.30	315.30	-0.80	
Equity Fund	959.50	1020.80	+10.70	
Fxd Interest Fund	486.50	512.70	+3.80	
International	398.30	423.80	+5.40	
High Income	778.80	828.60	+2.50	
Far East	567.10	603.30	-2.90	
North American	625.60	665.60	-19.00	
Special Sits	706.30	751.40	-3.10	
Technology	920.60	979.40	-42.60	
Extra Income Fd	424.50	451.60	+1.80	
Gilt Fund	507.60	540.00	+3.00	
European	158.70	168.90	+2.10	
Adventurous Mg	241.20	254.10	+2.70	
Secure Mgd	156.60	165.10	+0.80	
Equity Inc Dist	124.70	131.50	+0.60	4.45
Managed Dist	114.00	120.20	+0.50	5.03
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1043.20	1043.20	+2.60	
Inv Pol 2	945.80	995.70	+3.30	
Inv Pol 3	899.70	947.10	-1.80	
Inv Cash	336.80	346.10	+0.10	
Mixed Fund	490.90	516.90	+4.00	
Equity Fund	587.60	618.60	+1.00	
Property Fund	245.10	258.10	-1.70	
International Fd	534.00	562.20	+10.40	
Fixed Interest Fd	399.20	420.30	+4.50	
Indexed Stock Fd	208.30	219.30	+1.70	
Cash Fund	236.40	249.00	+0.20	
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	409.20	430.70	+0.10	
Equity Acc	498.90	525.10	+0.50	
International Acc	349.60	368.00	-1.60	
Property	231.60	243.70	-0.20	
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	277.90	292.60	+0.20	
Equity	1109.50	1167.90	+4.20	
European	185.00	194.80	+3.20	
Far East	172.40	181.50	+0.30	
Fixed Interest	425.20	447.60	-5.70	
Index Linked	221.90	233.60	-2.80	
International	653.80	688.30	+7.10	
Managed	764.60	804.90	-4.90	
Nth American	167.50	176.40	+3.70	
Property	370.40	389.90	-0.70	
Pensions				
Cash	437.90	461.00	+0.60	
Equity	1654.60	1741.70	-8.60	
European	224.30	236.20	+4.90	
Far East	137.50	144.80	+0.50	
Fixed Interest	596.70	628.20	-8.00	
Index Linked	310.30	326.70	+3.90	
International	933.50	982.70	-15.10	
Managed	1103.20	1161.30	-9.00	
Nth American	213.50	224.80	+6.50	
Property	514.60	541.70	-1.50	
Stock Exchange	248.70	[illegible]	-2.00	
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	724.30	762.50	+6.50	
Equity Fund	961.40	1012.00	+5.00	
Fixed Interest Fd	435.00	457.90	+5.00	
Index-Linked Fd	335.80	353.50	+2.40	
Property Fund	531.00	559.00	+0.50	
International Fd	698.80	735.60	+12.90	
N American Fd	294.40	309.90	+12.40	
Far East Fund	231.40	243.60	+1.60	
Deposit Fund	309.80	326.20	-0.40	
International Bd ‡	494.21	...	-2.13	
Worldwide Bond	169.00	177.90	+0.40	
European	179.50	189.00	+3.70	
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	721.00	759.10	-5.70	
Ebor Phoenix Eq	512.10	550.30	...	
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	616.10	...	+0.70	
-do- Acc ‡	972.90	...	+0.60	
Agricultural Fd ‡	853.60	...	+0.70	
-do- Acc ‡	818.40	...	+0.60	
Abbey Nat Fd ‡	458.70	...	+0.40	
Abbey Nat Acc ‡	483.30	...	+0.40	
Investment Fd ‡	386.60	...	+3.20	
Investment (A) ‡	370.60	...	+3.10	
Equity ‡	1405.00	...	+7.00	
Equity Acc ‡	1342.50	...	+6.80	
Money Fund ‡	496.00	...	+0.50	
-do- Acc ‡	473.20	...	+0.40	
Actuarial Fd ‡	637.60	...	+5.30	
Gilt-Edged Fd ‡	408.30	...	+4.50	
-do- Acc ‡	408.30	...	+4.50	
Retire Annuity ‡	1267.50	...	+5.30	
Immed Annuity ‡	307.50	...	+13.50	
Bldg Soc Life ‡	235.20	...	+0.20	
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc ‡	1585.80	...	-17.80	
Managed Acc ‡	890.70	...	-12.60	
Equity Account ‡	1301.10	...	-21.00	
Mngd Fund Acc	408.00	429.40	-6.20	
Equity Fund Acc	565.80	595.60	-9.70	
Prop Fund Acc	264.30	278.30	+0.10	
Fixed Int Fd Acc	322.70	339.70	+1.90	
Money Fund Acc	229.20	241.20	+0.20	
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	213.50	224.70	+0.90	
Pers Pens Accs	3026.70	...	...	
Pens Mngd Acc	945.50	995.20	...	
Pens Guarantee	271.30	285.60	+0.40	
Pens Equity	368.10	387.50	-1.00	
Pens Property	310.00	326.40	-0.50	
Pens Fixed Int	304.30	320.30	+4.10	
Pens Intl	256.70	270.20	-0.70	
Pens Money	248.20	261.30	+0.10	
Pens Indx-Lnkd	205.80	216.60	+2.30	
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	950.30	1000.40	+5.80	
Property Acc	308.90	325.20	+6.30	
Equity Acc	1580.40	1663.60	+6.60	
Fixed Int Acc	427.10	449.60	+6.60	
Cash Acc	321.20	338.20	+0.30	
Amer Equity Acc	434.60	457.50	+9.00	
Japan Acc	284.20	299.20	-2.00	
Pacific Acc	369.20	388.70	-2.40	
Far Eastern Acc	829.90	873.60	-5.90	
International Acc	620.00	652.70	-1.20	
Distribution Fund	287.40	302.60	+1.70	5.95
European	202.50	213.20	+3.80	
Deffrd Dist	179.80	189.30	+0.90	
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	303.90	319.90	+1.30	
Property Fund	231.50	243.80	+0.30	
Fixed Interest Fd	236.40	248.90	+2.10	
Money Fund	207.80	218.80	+0.20	
Equity Fund	394.10	414.90	+1.90	
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	744.30	784.30	+10.80	
Money Fund	329.60	346.90	-0.90	
Equity Fund	678.60	714.30	+1.30	
Fixed Interest	294.10	309.50	+1.60	
Property Fund	332.90	350.40	-27.80	
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	653.60	687.70	+21.00	
Income	792.70	835.30	+1.50	
International Gth	669.10	705.10	+10.30	
Capital Fund	674.00	710.20	+2.70	
Recovery Fund	649.50	684.40	+7.50	
Japan & General	262.70	276.80	+1.70	
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.73	19.72	+0.02	
Bear	21.03	22.14	+0.08	
Owl	22.77	23.97	-0.30	
Bull	19.30	20.32	+0.20	
Stag	20.01	21.06	+0.10	
Gilt Edged	19.66	20.69	-0.09	
Deposit	16.33	17.19	-0.01	
Pensions				
Squirrel	25.77	27.13	+0.03	
Bear	29.54	31.09	+0.11	
Owl	31.44	33.09	+0.42	
Bull	25.24	26.57	-0.26	
Stag	25.58	26.93	-0.13	
Gilt Edged	25.04	26.36	+0.12	
Deposit	21.38	22.50	+0.03	
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	628.72		+6.17	
1982 Series				
UK Equity	376.59	396.41	+5.92	
N Amer Equity	320.07	336.92	+5.59	
Far East Equity	365.90	385.16	-0.79	
Fixed	310.96	327.33	+1.56	
Cash Deposit	212.50	223.68	+0.19	
Property	141.58	149.03	-2.48	
Special Opp	376.35	396.16	-1.98	
Managed	331.79	349.25	+3.41	
Index-Linked Fd	198.72	209.18	+0.60	

A NEW ENTRY AT

No 1

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Society wedding excludes youth

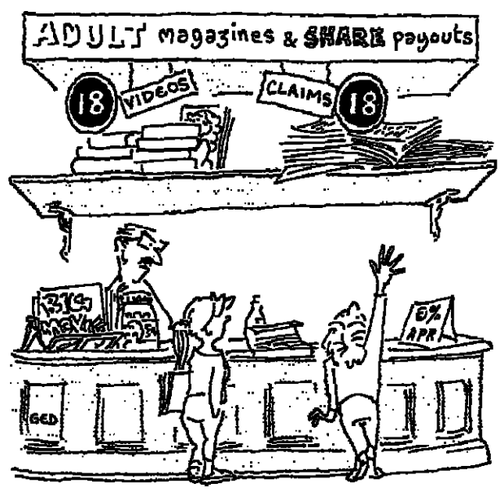
From Miss Clare Riley

Sir, I wish to draw your readers' attention to an injustice concerning the transfer of N&P to Abbey National – viz that the shares issue is to be paid out only to investors who are over 18 years of age. This is a clear case of ageism.

In an era where young people are being encouraged to save, once again the "fat cat" philosophy prevails – those who have gain and those without a voice lose.

As a prospective undergraduate, perhaps this is just another ploy to encourage student debt.

Yours sincerely,
CLARE RILEY (aged 17),
20 Wyvern Road,
Sutton Coldfield, W Midlands.



The role of the Rent Officer

From Mr P. Popplewell

Sir, I read with interest in last Saturday's Times Weekend Money Page, the article by Karen Zagor on "Rent or Buy".

I would like to correct one misconception regarding the role of the Rent Officer and The Rent Act 1977. The rented properties to which she referred were subject to market rents. Tenancies for these types of properties are subject to The Housing Act 1988.

They fall into two categories:

☐ Assured Shorthold Tenancies, which have a minimum contractual period of six months.

Tenants who are not happy with the level of their rent may apply to the Rent Assessment Committee (Section 23 Housing Act 1988) for determination of a reasonable market rent.

☐ Assured Tenancies, which are longer term, and are subject to Section 14 Housing Act 1988 where the new contractual rent cannot be agreed between parties.

Rent Officers can only become involved in Regulated Protected Tenancies under Rent Act 1977, ie. Tenancies created before January 15, 1989.

Tenancies after that date are outside their jurisdiction.

Yours faithfully,
P. POPPLEWELL,
Chief Rent Officer,
Enfield Rent Registration Area,
Nicholas House,
River Front,
Enfield,
Middlesex.

When the only option is to rent a home

From Mr A. J. Roberts

Sir, Your article on whether to rent or buy refers all too briefly to job insecurity: this is surely a crucial factor in all aspects of the housing market.

Not only do those in permanent work face the prospect of redundancy but the whole nature of employment is changing. I only need quote Graham Searjeant's article of October 23, in which he cites the trend of the 150 top companies in the UK to rely on temporary staff for all but the key posts. This invariably involves a short-term contract and may be in a wide range of locations. Few in this situation can contemplate buying, while those who bought in happier times, often face the social, family and economic problems of working away from home. property prices are unlikely to rise while this job insecurity remains.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY J. ROBERTS,
10 Oxen Avenue,
Shoreham-by-Sea, W Sussex.

Proving identity at bank or society need not be a shot in the dark

From Mr I. Pratt

Sir, Your interesting article (Can you prove your ID? October 14) highlights something that has been a source of extreme annoyance to me for some time.

It is particularly annoying that banks and building societies make differing requirements and often fail to give any notice of what these may be. I have made a point of opening a number of accounts and have tried a host of documents to prove my identity. My main reason for writing is the quote from Adrian Coles of the Building Societies Association that "there is currently no one document which bears the holder's name, address and photograph".

This is not true. I hold a shotgun certificate which shows all this information. Furthermore, the certificate is issued by the local police force who have to satisfy themselves as to the applicant's identity and the applicant has to have his application countersigned by a person of professional standing certifying that they have known the applicant for at least two years and that the photograph included is a current true likeness.

Whilst I accept that not everyone has a shotgun or similar firearms certificate, there are many tens of thousands of people who do. I have tried to use the certificate but it is virtually always refused as not being on the organisation's list.

On pushing the point, the invariable reply is that it is the Government's rules although this is clearly not true.

I have, on each occasion, requested that the cashier put forward the suggestion to include shotgun/firearms certificates on the list and yet I am not aware that they are yet included.

Yours sincerely,
IAN PRATT,
The Old Chapel,
Mill Lane,
Compton Martin,
Bristol.

A will to find a more rewarding way

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, Your correspondent Dr Doughty (October 28) drew attention to the IHT due on a person's assets at time of death. Dr Doughty will be relieved to hear that the position is not quite as bad for his heirs (ie, his children) as he is led to believe. It appears that Dr Doughty directly owns assets ("free estate") of around £300,000: he is also entitled to the income from a trust set up by his aunt in the 1950s. The trust contains capital of around £104,000, and on Dr Doughty's death the trust capital passes elsewhere (not to his children).

Dr Doughty correctly observes that the £104,000 trust capital is liable to IHT at the time of his death as well as there being an IHT liability on his £300,000 free estate. His free estate will pass in time to his children. Dr Doughty calculates that the IHT payable out of his free estate is around £100,000, as follows:

Free estate	£300,000
Trust Capital	£104,000
Total	£404,000
Less: IHT zero rate band	£154,000
Estate chargeable to IHT	£250,000
IHT at 40%, £250,000	£100,000

The IHT of £100,000 represents an effective "IHT estate rate" of 24.75% on the £404,000. Dr Doughty regrets the fact that his children will only receive £200,000 (i.e. free estate of £300,000 less the above IHT liability of £100,000). He is concerned that his free estate is effectively bearing all the £41,000 tax on the £104,000 trust assets.

His children will in fact receive £225,750. The IHT of £100,000 is accounted for thus:

a) The trust bears its own IHT, payable from its own assets, at Dr Doughty's IHT estate rate of 24.75% as applied to the trust assets of £104,000 £25,750

b) Dr Doughty's free estate bears IHT of 24.75% on £300,000, leaving £225,750 for his children £74,250

Total £100,000

Dr Doughty still has a point, since the trust has benefitted from part of his IHT zero rate band which would otherwise have gone against his free estate. But he has had the benefit of the income from the trust for many years, and the position of his children is not quite so unjust as he fears.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK,
Chantrey Vellacott Chartered Accountants, WC1.

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BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2768½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2725	+ 78½	47	10.2
577½	413	Abbey Nat	536	+ ...	45	10.7
330	250	Allied Irish	326	+ 3	4.4	9.5
280	198	Aus. New Z	270	+ 3	4.4	11.4
4975	2531½	Bank America	3775	+ 56	51	8.2
370½	191½	Bank Scotland	351	+ 1	31	17.1
778	557½	Barclays	750	+ 5	38	10.2
426	288	Bk of Ireland	402	+ 1	38	9.5
529	418	Cater Allen	472	+ 2	77	7.1
4682½	2450	Citicorp	4292½	+ 32½		
340½	216½	Close Bros	314	+ 3	48	14.0
2162½	1129½	Commercial	1745½	+ 40½	3.5	
1375	969½	Dk Ichi Kan Y	1062½	+ 6½	0.5	...
3531½	2775	Deutsche Bk	3285½	+ 69½	2.6	...
881½	612½	Espirito Santo	712½	...	1.6	...
1611	1136½	Fuji Bank Y	1184½	+ 21½	0.4	17.1
490	395	Gerrard Nat	468	+ 4	6.4	14.2
1052	880	Hambros	1000	...	4.7	10.7
983	589	HSBC	943	+ 1	3.7	12.3
947	578	HSBC Hk	900	+ 3½	3.8	12.1
326	226	Irish Perm	323	...	3.6	7.7
463	353	Joseph (L)	443	+ 20	5.6	24.7
1242	86	King Solomon	114	...	9.9	8.9
538	430	Lloyds	495	...	4.2	12.2
565	479	Nat Aust Bk	536	+ 11	6.9	8.5
1669	454	Nat West	1536	+ 9	4.4	9.9
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500	...	6.5	3.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	45	...	2.8	18.0
5681	3275	Rpl Bk Scot	511	- 4	3.5	12.3
1478	906½	Standard Ch	1338	- 2	1.3	19.1
1180	823½	Schroders NV	1105	- 3	1.6	15.7
110	81	Singer & Fried	106	...	4.4	11.0
329½	248	Standard Chart	321	- 4	2.2	13.1
283	217	TSB	270	- 2	3.9	13.0
121	70	Union	105	+ 2	3.8	
21454½	904½	Wells Fargo	21364½	+ 218½	2.1	
269½	211	Westpac	262½	+ 5½	2.2	
295	200	Wintrust	290	...	4.8	18.9

BREWERIES

231	143	Arcot Hldgs	218	+ 1		0.4
4280	3289	Bass	3883	- 5	4.1	16.0
420	299	Boddington	398		3.0	12.6
1692	1137	Burtonwood Brw	1662	...	3.7	17.5
1886	1137	Eldridge P 'A'	1722	...	3.1	20.9
9	3	Fixed Up	4	...	4.8	...
1433	355	Fuller 'A'	1407	...	2.6	17.4
1823	1402	Greenalls Grp	1800	...	3.4	14.5
1658	1468	Greene King	1638	...	3.7	17.1
1894	1240	Hardy Heron	1879	+ 3	4.3	13.0
1691	1150	Heineken	1556	...	4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Holt J	3143	...	2.1	16.8
347	219	Mansfield	327	- 1	2.0	17.2
721	554	Matson Thmp	704	...	2.7	15.2
543	391½	Morland	518	...	2.7	15.6
B¼	6½	Paramount	7	...	3.9	
805	307	Regent Inns	573	+ 1	1.5	22.6
2143½	1287½	SA Breweries	2075	...	1.7	28.5
524	452	Scot & Newc	505	- 4	3.9	15.7
337	235	Scot & Newc P/P	330	...		
309	211	Vaux Group	258		4.8	14.6
638	448	Wetherspoon (JD)	627	+ 2	1.6	
647	521	Whitbread	622	- 5	4.2	16.0
1165	883	Whitbread D	1127	- 1	3.4	13.6
290	186	Yates Bros	273	...	4.1	20.4
475	425	Young 'A'	455			

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

158	125	Abbey	135	...	4.9	8.8
198	143	Allen	176	...	3.9	13.1
78	54½	Amec	59	+ 1	6.4	12.4
280	193	Andrews Sykes	258	...		
460	413	Ashtead	438	...	2.1	14.4
105	93	Ashworth	97	...	0.8	6.8
38	24	Bailey (Bert) Con	24	...	5.5	5.8
41½	30½	Barcom	36	...		
2697½	1581	Barratt Devel	1917	- 5	4.8	
1598	1221	Beazer Homes	1531	- 1	4.8	11.0
254	180	Bellway	234	+ 4	4.2	
37	15	Bellwinch	15	...	1.6	8.6
421	315	Bespoke Gp	415	+ 1	2.3	12.0
185	165	Bett Bros	166	...	3.8	9.2
245	185	Bovis (Henry)	195	- 5	4.6	9.1
1040	839½	Brandts Hldg	1040	- 1	8.8	...
98	23	Britannia Grp	36	...	3.0	16.6
1636	1226	Br Bldg & Eng	1436	...	27.5	5.0
134	93½	Bryant	99½	- 4½	6.8	
121	86	CALA	114	...	3.5	11.0
38	19½	Campbell & Arm	19½	- ½		15.5
84	49	Clarke T	59	...	10.4	17.6
242½	67	Costain	72	...		
110	53	Countryside	54	...	9.7	7.7
81	43	Crest Nicholson	46	...	5.4	6.4
98	70	Cuttons	72	+ 2	6.8	8.3
253	165	Den Group	170	...	7.9	8.4
29	13	Galliford	16	...	7.8	...
863	748	Gleeson (AG)	748	...	2.5	
88	61	Green (Eric)†	61	...	10.5	25.6
278	178	Hanelock Expan	273	...	1.5	22.8
158	115	Hanson-Sheriff	123	...	2.9	13.1
93	73	Higgs & Hill†	76	...	4.1	64.5
23	14	Howard Hldgs	15	...	6.7	17.5
9¼	3½	Jarvis	3½	...		
98	58	Keller	120	...	3.7	12.6
231	185	Laing (JT)	227	...	4.9	28.3
97	82	Laing (John) Cv Pf	92	...	2.7	
61	12	Lovell (Y.J)	14	...	8.9	1.4
210	176	Maunders (J.H)	177	...	4.0	
181	164	McAlpine (Alf)	174	- 1	6.0	14.1
160	150	McCarthy & St	154	...		13.5
78	57	Mansion Septic	77	...	1.5	
121	116	Morrison Const	116	...	3.2	11.4
106	53	Mowlem (J)	61	...	4.1	30.4
216	162	Persimmon	163	...	7.3	11.3
2480	1808½	Pochin	1808½	...	5.2	...
126	94	Prowting	94	...	5.1	12.1
53	20	Raine Ind	21	...	14.9	5.4
53	46	Secure Resrv	50	...	2.5	9.5
128	93	Redrow†	116	...	3.4	
396	362	Sheriff Hldgs	362	- 6	2.2	13.2
112½	78	Shanks	80	...	6.2	12.3
368	256	Spandex	346	...	1.0	31.6
176	144	Tay Homes†	144	...	5.1	9.9
130	103	Taylor Woodrw	103	- 3	2.7	19.5
568	418	Tilbury Douglas†	418	- 3	8.8	14.2
50½	32	Tomkinson	32	...	4.9	14.1
23	8	Tysanwood	10	...		
20	9½	Try Group	9½	...	6.6	13.3
109	79	Vibroplant	84	...	6.0	6.6
116	93	Wakemans	100	...	5.6	9.3
68	37	Ward Hldgs	44	...	6.8	6.5
169	123	Westbury	169	+ 2	4.4	12.4
5½	2½	Wiggins	3½	...		22.4
174	124	Wilson (C)	144	...	3.9	10.7
372	308	Wilson Bowdrn	335	...	3.6	12.2
155	97	Wimpey G	101	- 1	5.8	14.7

BUSINESS SERVICES

2	1½	Anglo Ute	1½	...	...	...
86	57	Aqn Helo	75	...	...	...
7½	5½	Bailey (CH)	6	+ ¼	...	...
58	36	Black Arrow	44	+ 1	0.8	11.1
87	60	Br Bloodstock	85	...		27.4
9	3	Chld Up	4	...	...	...
9¼	4½	Chrysalis	7½	...	1.7	22.7
161	135	Cossil	151	+ 1	6.8	10.5
263	215	Filofax	263	+ 7	1.2	16.0
43	24	Headway	33	...		30.0
438	248	Hemdale	434	+ 10½	2.2	19.6
109	79	Hollis	130	...	7.5	13.5
118	93	Mowlems	100	...	5.6	9.3
68	37	Ward Hldgs	44	...	6.8	6.5
169	123	Wembley	169	+ 2	4.4	12.4
5½	2½	Wiggins	3½	...		22.4
174	124	Wilson (C)	144	...	3.9	10.7
372	308	Wilson Bowdrn	335	...	3.6	12.2
155	97	Wimpey G	101	- 1	5.8	14.7

CHEMICALS

158	148	Albright & Wilt	148	- 5	5.0	15.7
127	109	Allied Colloids	133	...	2.4	18.8
265	195	Amber Ind	240	...	2.9	4.1
63	47	Amterey Gp	63	...	3.5	18.1
2147½	1120½	BASF Ute	2130½	- 425		
1806	1406	BOC	1730½	...	3.6	19.0
288	236	BTP	271	- 1	5.0	15.0
2379½	2141½	Bayer DM50	2164½	+1790	3.5	
165	110	Bayglas	154	...		
119	89	Brent Chemist	93	- 1	4.8	22.7
278	210	Br Vita	234	- 3	4.4	14.0
238	184	Canning (W)†	230	+ 4	4.9	15.0
469½	380	Courtaulds	451	...	4.9	15.3
387½	330	Crodor	351	...	3.3	14.3
203	125	Dartford	210	...	4.0	15.3
282	234	Ellis & Everard	267	- 1	2.2	25.2
110	92	Euro Colour	97	- 1	2.2	24.2
221	174	Gibbon	221	+ 10	3.5	17.5
145	89	Hickson	98	- 4	3.5	9.4
2387½	2122½	Hoechst	2162½	+3184	3.4	
2215	1765	Holliday Chem	1959½	...	3.1	13.7
2492½	1850	ICI	2169	- 18	4.6	14.8
28	18½	Inspec	25	...	1.6	34.8
177	122	Polymark	172	+ 1	1.8	16.1
1116	848½	RMC Gp	1003	- 7	2.2	13.7
470	338	Redhead†	343	- 7	6.1	10.5
122	99½	Rotec	106	...	5.1	11.6
176	126	Rotsmoll	150	...	5.1	11.6
158	115	Rugby Group†	113	+ 3	4.0	14.6
113	80	Scapa (AY)	107	...	5.1	14.4
282	205	SWIT	247	...	3.7	11.5
18	11	SWP	13	...	1.9	
198	156	Sharpe & Fisher†	157	...	3.8	12.5
29	23½	Spring Ram	23½	- ½	2.4	
436	89	Tarmac	83	- ½	8.3	12.5
150	130	Tibbs	130	...	4.4	18.1
326	265	Travis Perkins	312	...	3.6	13.1
38	24	Vardon†	29	...	3.2	17.2
411	324	Wickes	385	...	3.1	13.2

DISTRIBUTORS

113½	88½	ABI Ltd	100	...	5.2	11.5
595	535	Acsm & Harvey	550	...	4.0	6.5
21	14	Alexandrex	14	...	6.2	23.0
112	88	Applegarth	90	- 2	8.3	9.7
2½	1¾	Atk Br Eag	2	...	21	28.5
823	518	BSS Group	577	...	4.2	16.6
46	28	Bandk	35	...		
24½	15½	Bayng Power	15½	...	7.6	8.1
24½	18	Bogod 'A'	18½	...	3.4	9.3
463	345	Brammer	442	...	3.8	17.0
21	10½	Budgend Gp	17	...	1.5	...
96	78	But Fenwick	96	- 3	4.8	12.7
270	215	Calgny	252	...	5.7	18.0
88	54	Central Mk	54	...	5.1	19.2
99	35	Cook (DC)	35	- 3½	3.5	7.8
350	220	Cowie	253	- 5	4.2	12.2
155	125	Dey Mercer	133	...	6.8	11.0
588	508	Dominion Fl	508	...	4.4	16.8
501	408	Diploma	434	- 1	1.9	11.2
242	206	Electrocomps	224	...	2.2	22.6
247½	153	Eurodis Elec	236	...	2.2	16.3
128	87	Eurodollar	118	...	8.5	7.1
120	87	Exclusive Mfg	87	...	8.3	6.9
51	30½	Bramley Iw	46½	+ ...	3.2	14.9
948	743	Diamart	828	- 2	3.8	13.4
297	186	Electrocert	293½	+ ...	3.1	18.7
153	100	Exmpton Hdgs	142	...	5.1	16.0
2435½	1894	Filtronics	1914½	+ 1½	2.2	18.5
162½	135	Hanson Chilton	147	...	7.7	11.4
369½	309½	Hutch Wharnp	351½	+ 6	2.2	19.2
584½	371½	Jardine Math	386	+ ½	4.1	7.9
97	56	Junction (I)	76	...	6.1	6.9
171	134	Lontho	158	+ 3½	3.8	21.8
171	113	McLeod Russel	151	...	5.1	15.2
44	34	Porter Chadbn	37	...		13.8
601	447	Powell Duffryn	563	+ 1	5.3	16.5
152	120	Rapnor	150	...	6.9	10.3
178	120	Senior Dorby	164	+ 1	3.0	16.7
230	164	Staveley	213	...	5.0	15.5
207	148	Sytort	186	...	6.5	12.4
286	227	TT Group	268	+ ½	2.6	15.1
261	214	Tomkinson	246	- 2½	4.4	13.7
36	18½	Trafalgar H	22½	...		
395	305	Unidare	395	...	3.6	
360	315	Wardle Storeys	360	- 2	5.6	19.0
360	241	Wassall†	267	...	2.1	13.1
200	162	Wigfacott	179	...	3.0	14.3
350	298½	Wolseley Hldg	313	- 1	5.5	14.6

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

175	139	Advest	139	...	7.0	...
353	236	Amalgamated	253	- 5	1.6	13.6
940	725½	Bnstrm Hld	866	- 2	2.5	...
348	291	BTR†	335	- 1	5.2	14.5
564	405	BATS	526	+ 4	5.4	13.5
270½	144	Botsford Int	148	- 1	1.3	39.2
171	87½	Bibby (J)	123	- 1	6.8	22.8
51	30½	Bramley Iw	46½	+ ...	3.2	14.9
948	743	Chanert	828	- 2	3.8	13.4
297	186	Coalisseri	293½	+ ...	3.1	18.7
153	100	Compson Hdgs	142	...	5.1	16.0
2435½	1894	Hanson	1914½	+ 1½	2.2	18.5
162½	135	Hanson Chilton	147	...	7.7	11.4
369½	309½	Hutch Wharnp	351½	+ 6	2.2	19.2
584½	371½	Jardine Math	386	+ ½	4.1	7.9
97	56	Junction (I)	76	...	6.1	6.9
171	134	Lontho	158	+ 3½	3.8	21.8
171	113	McLeod Russel	151	...	5.1	15.2
44	34	Porter Chadbn	37	...		13.8
601	447	Powell Duffryn	563	+ 1	5.3	16.5
152	120	Rapnor	150	...	6.9	10.3
178	120	Senior Dorby	164	+ 1	3.0	16.7
230	164	Staveley	213	...	5.0	15.5
207	148	Sytort	186	...	6.5	12.4
286	227	TT Group	268	+ ½	2.6	15.1
261	214	Tomkinson	246	- 2½	4.4	13.7
36	18½	Trafalgar H	22½	...		
395	305	Unidare	395	...	3.6	
360	315	Wardle Storeys	360	- 2	5.6	19.0
360	241	Wassall†	267	...	2.1	13.1
200	162	Wigfacott	179	...	3.0	14.3
350	298½	Wolseley Hldg	313	- 1	5.5	14.6

ELECTRICITY

906	554	East Midlands	895	+ 32	4.1	12.1
978	535	Eastern Grp	976	...	3.6	13.0
597½	548	London Elec	906	+ 14	4.0	12.0
1093	621	Manch Ship	1080	+ 14	4.0	12.0
1098	563	Midlands	969	+ 6	4.8	9.8
581	421½	National Power	484	- 4	4.8	10.8
271	158½	Nat Power PP	194	+ 5	3.9	10.7
1098	627½	Northern Elec	878	+ 5	5.1	8.2
1105	677½	Norweb	1042	+ 6	4.8	10.2
27½	17½	SEP Hld	25½	...	2.2	15.3
10	6½	Salford Elec	10	...	2.8	10.3
1191	611	Scottish Power	1191	+ 6	3.0	12.5
74½	38	ScottishPower	74½	...	3.0	12.5
1086	556	Seeboard	1081	+ 11	3.4	11.4
969	830	Sth Wales	926	+ 9	4.1	9.6
974	803	Sth Western	900	...	4.0	10.6
974	548	Southern Elec	966	+ 3	4.6	10.5
918	599	Yorkshire Elec	898	+ 11	4.2	11.3

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

504	292	Acal	503	...	1.8	20.1
169	77½	Acorn Comp	145	- 2	...	...
786	635	Admiral	783	...	1.5	20.5
261	195	Alba	253	...	2.8	17.3
2685½	1274	Aquascutt	2664½	+ 2	1.2	
41	30	Arlen	38	...	2.9	13.2
126	77	Assct	117½	+ ½	1.4	18.3
565	115	Atlas	505	+ 15	0.8	40.4
364	254	BICC†	354	- 4	6.2	14.9
250	225	Bailey Hunter	250	...	6.0	12.4
433	284	Bowthorpe†	429	+ 5	2.2	19.6
94	71	Bridgn (AF) 'A'	94	+ 1	2.1	9.5
291	117	CML Micro	130	...	5.9	10.0
39	15	Channel Hldgs®	21	...	4.6	16.1
29½	19	Chemnd	21½	...	1.6	61.8
80	61	Clayhithe	71	...	5.4	17.7
208	105	Copymore	208	...	4.9	27.1
770	471½	Cray Elec	44	...	7.1	...
648	561	Crtchley	634	- 9	5.5	22.3
360	299	Dwks Ds Sys	339	- 5	0.5	28.5
533	399	Detnet	419	- 1	4.7	14.4
565	435	Domino	485	- 4	2.7	15.4
72	63	Dowding Mills	63	...	6.5	16.7
2252	1482	Electrocomp	2180	...	0.9	17.2
33404½	2562½	Electrolux 'B'	2965½	+ 9½	4.5	4.2
34½	26	Emtec	31	...	0.4	
1666½	850	Ericsson 'B'	1390½	+ 66½	0.9	32.2
104	64	Eurocorp	90	...	3.0	18.8
571	370	Farnell Elec	570	+ 5	1.8	21.4
542	375	Fenny Group†	514	...	6.4	14.4
514	165	Filtronic Com	507	+ 12	0.2	
578	196	Forward Gp	565	- 10	1.3	31.4
180	48	Forward Tech†	95	...	3.7	11.9
1145	341	GEC	1145	+ 1½	4.5	11.3
171	122	Gresley	93	+ 4	4.8	18.5
141	75	Ind Control†	141	...	4.8	15.3
274	14	Instrtch	23½	...	4.2	16.9
333	225	Kenwood App	333	...	5.6	10.1
107	60	Kode	107	...	5.7	26.3
49	38	LPA Ind	49	...	4.9	14.6
330	267	MTL Ind	267	...	2.2	14.8
286	264	Marconi-Se	280	- 1	2.3	27.3
40	30½	Micronics	36	...	3.3	12.6
357	204	Misys	354	+ 8	0.2	37.6
414	315	Oxford Inst	414	+ 1	1.7	18.1
132	51	Pacer Systmns†	123	...	3.3	16.6
212	73	Peak	205	+ ½	4.9	20.8
3327½	1869½	Philips Lmp nv	2488½	+ 12½	2.6	13.5
248	217	Pitec	248	...	2.9	13.2
219	207	Pitec 'A' Wt	217	...	2.9	13.2
153	116	Plasmec†	143	...	3.8	11.4
153	88	Prosec	148	...	3.0	
41	18	Prosolv†	41	...		16.3
617	263	Psion	613	+ 21	0.8	25.9
31	15	Quadrant Grp	15	...	3.3	15.0
286	217	Racal Elec†	268	+ 3	2.4	20.3
83	44	Redacrest	78	...	2.4	18.6
468	391	Renishaw	418	...	2.4	23.1
283	202½	Reuters	283	+ 1	2.3	13.9
390	330	Scantronic	390	...		
57	38	Shearwater	51	...	2.6	13.6
56	36	Sinclair Dnis	56	...		
245	213	Smiths Ind	245	...	3.5	13.0
1½	½	Spectrum	1	...	4.1	11.1
25	15	TDS Circuits	25	...		
5440½	2460½	TDK	5274½	...	1.1	19.1
376	97	Tadpole Tech	376	+ 7	1.1	19.1
147	57	Telemetrix	147	...	3.7	11.6
115	63	Vtl	115	...	3.3	12.5
1048	242	Telspec	1048	...	0.5	58.2
286	226	Thorpe FW†	286	...	6.1	15.6
139	116	Tld	139	...	3.7	17.5
256	214	Total Systems	221	...		21.8
327	227	Tunstall	327	- 4	1.5	19.8
587	358	Unitech	537	...	1.8	19.8
74	38	Vinity	42	...	1.9	15.3
393	308	Wassall	393	...	3.6	14.1
187	122	Wheelock	183	...	1.0	

ENGINEERING

347	167	AIM	298	- 2		1.9
97	47½	APV†	95	...	4.5	
248	156½	ASW†	159	...	5.0	7.5
37	24	Aero Humble	31	...	...	
42	22	Aker	41	...	...	
133	103	Ash & Lacy†	133	...	4.9	11.4
538	385	Atlas Exmpt	535	...	4.3	22.2
118	79	Aprshire Metal	118	...	4.3	12.8
79	51	BI Group	79	...	1.2	
122	77	Babcock	122	...	2.8	17.9
122	77	Bayers (Charles)	122	- 2	5.2	6.1
98	68	Bristol	98	...	3.1	
98	68	Bristol	98	...	3.1	
139	98	Bodycote	139	...	3.6	
419	308	Brooks Ind†	419	...	4.1	
36	18	Brooks	18	...	4.1	
13½	8½	Brooks	8	- ½	4.0	16.1
122½	81½	Bridon'V	113	- ½	6.1	6.9
418½	316	Br Aerospace†	413	+ 1½	3.6	31.9
191	144	Br Steel	191	...		
14½	10½	Brown & Tawl	13½	- 1	7.8	...
35½	27½	Bronx	35½	...	5.6	15.9
180	131	Burbugh	134	...	5.5	15.9
123	71	Burndlab	116	...	4.0	16.8
236	150	Cambr Eq	231	...	4.0	15.3
194	150	Cardon	163	...	5.4	11.5
145	105	Chamberlin Hill	145	...	3.4	18.0
294	204	Chesnara	294	...	4.0	
130	100	Clarke Bowers	130	...	4.0	24.3
505	368	Cohlan	505	+ 2	6.0	9.1
219	166	Concst (A)	219	...	4.3	13.9
248	166	Concentric	248	...	2.2	15.3
514	375	Corp Exmpt	514	...	6.4	14.4
514	165	Filtronic Com	507	+ 12	0.2	
578	196	Forward Gp	565	- 10	1.3	31.4
180	48	Forward Tech†	95	...	3.7	11.9
341	299	GEC	1145	+ 1½	4.5	11.3
171	122	Gresley	93	+ 4	4.8	18.5
141	75	Ind Control†	141	...	4.8	15.3
274	14	Instrtch	23½	...	4.2	16.9
333	225	Kenwood App	333	...	5.6	10.1
107	60	Kode	107	...	5.7	26.3
49	38	LPA Ind	49	...	4.9	14.6
330	267	MTL Ind	267	...	2.2	14.8
286	264	Marconi-Se	280	- 1	2.3	27.3
40	30½	Micronics	36	...	3.3	12.6
357	204	Misys	354	+ 8	0.2	37.6
414	315	Oxford Inst	414	+ 1	1.7	18.1
132	51	Pacer Systmns†	123	...	3.3	16.6
212	73	Peak	205	+ ½	4.9	20.8
3327½	1869½	Philips Lmp nv	2488½	+ 12½	2.6	13.5
248	217	Pitec	248	...	2.9	13.2
219	207	Pitec 'A' Wt	217	...	2.9	13.2
153	116	Plasmec†	143	...	3.8	11.4
153	88	Prosec	148	...	3.0	
41	18	Prosolv†	41	...		16.3
617	263	Psion	613	+ 21	0.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01895 259 783				
Grotund Aggr	185.70	196.50†	-4.70	0.12
Grotund Equity	261.40	278.10	-3.20	2.20
Grotund Euro	228.90	242.30	-3.40	1.30
Grotund Expt Bal	120.40	124.90		1.05
Grotund Gilt	74.88	77.20	-0.90	6.24
Grotund Japan	161.60	171.10†	-3.00	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	592.70	630.40†	+2.50	2.71
General Inc	509.30	541.80†	-2.50	2.71
UK Growth Acc	401.20	426.90†	-0.30	2.93
UK Growth Inc	367.40	264.50†	-0.70	2.93
Higher Inc Acc	740.40	787.70†	-2.40	4.19
Higher Inc Inc	412.20	438.60†	-1.30	4.19
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	200.40	211.70	-1.90	5.70
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	92.15	97.14	-1.97	5.70
Nth America	325.90	346.80†	+15.60	
Europe	308.10	327.90†	-4.20	0.92
Brit Excell	80.54	85.68†	-0.45	3.02
Brit Fndmtls Acc	109.60	116.60†	-0.60	4.76
Brit Fndmtls Inc	76.68	81.58†	+0.40	4.76
Global Opps	91.68	97.54†	-0.79	0.32
Balanced Acc	58.22	61.94†	+0.10	3.01
Balanced Inc	55.71	59.27†	-0.36	3.01
Japan Acc	42.95	45.70†	+0.07	
Pac Exom Acc	366.50	389.80†	+0.10	0.98
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	129.90	137.80	-1.40	7.25
High Inc Equity	173.90	186.00†	-1.30	4.33
Worldwide Bond	282.30	299.70†	-4.20	4.67
Capital Growth				
American Growth	330.00	352.90	+12.70	0.36
Asian Pacific	300.40	321.30	-2.90	
Assets & Earnings	285.90	304.20†	-3.80	2.81
Commdy & Energy	105.20	112.50	-5.30	0.12
Euro Capital Inc	145.60	155.70	+2.40	0.62
-do- Accum	156.20	167.00	+2.70	0.62
General	257.40	273.80	-1.40	3.04
Japan	112.30	120.10	-1.90	
Mastertrust	147.50	157.80	+1.20	1.50
UK Emerging Cos	171.30	182.20	-8.60	
Ethical	71.77	76.75	-0.83	2.61
International	120.90	129.00	-2.20	0.71
Investment & Growth	65.27	69.14	-0.31	2.05
Global Grwth & Soc	65.65	70.40	-0.21	2.85
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1951.00	2027.00	-20.60	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
American Growth	51.87	55.56†	-1.57	0.57
Cash	50.39	50.39	-0.04	5.80
Emerging Mkts	64.31	69.15	-1.17	0.05
European	126.40	133.20	+1.50	
Europe	1009.60	1080.70†	-1.40	1.72
Extra Income #	48.77	52.10	-0.41	6.52
Far East Emg Eco	114.60	121.00	-0.40	0.52
Fixed Interest #	22.85	24.28†	-0.35	9.78
Fund Inv Tst	163.10	171.70†	-1.80	9.06
Japan	176.00	184.40	-0.60	
Latin American	45.63	47.97	-0.09	1.02
Pacific	76.37	80.76	[illegible]	0.33
Property Share	61.04	64.07	-0.59	2.74
UK Emerging Cos	69.26	72.70	-0.35	1.70
UK Growth	47.42	50.23†	-0.25	2.54
Spec World Port #	76.05	77.49†	-2.82	2.12
[illegible]	70.17	75.65		2.39
[illegible] Gilt Inc #	50.62	50.62	-0.26	7.42
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 549 3232				
Select Portfolio	91.49	97.85†	-0.13	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 256 5868				
Airways Property	97.41	103.90	-0.10	5.29
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
Amity Income	73.93	94.16	-0.21	2.42
Amity Builder Inc	73.93	78.65	-0.12	2.76
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC IFA dlg 01793 610 366 Client dlg 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	259.70	267.90†	-2.50	2.91
Capital	448.20	475.40†	-1.60	1.74
[illegible]	704.20	736.70	-5.30	3.50
Accumulator	1396.00	[illegible]	-13.50	2.72
Income Trusts				
High Yield Income	53.37	57.05	-0.85	3.12
High Income	417.60	442.20	-3.30	3.45
Equity Income	234.10	250.20	-2.60	3.33
Extra Yield	251.50	269.70†	-2.20	3.23
Gilt Securities	32.61	35.47	-0.43	9.99
International Trusts				
[illegible]	174.10	186.10†	-3.40	0.39
European Growth	41.93	44.68	-0.73	0.01
International	159.40	161.70	-2.09	0.13
Japan	136.10	195.10	-2.00	0.01
Pacific	375.40	401.20	-3.30	0.01
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pacific Basin	49.95	52.42	-0.20	0.22
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	564.00	603.30	-2.99	2.12
[illegible]	33.75	[illegible]	-0.21	1.92
[illegible]	182.22	[illegible]	-1.10	1.92
UK Smaller Cos	177.10	189.50	-1.19	1.28
Property	145.30	153.60†	-0.63	1.64
[illegible]	155.70	165.80†	-1.60	5.77
[illegible]	99.50	105.60	-1.50	1.55
[illegible]	205.60	216.50†	-4.20	0.52
UK Special Sits	308.40	330.41†	-3.90	1.53
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01293 526 911				
Growth Fxd Port	107.20	111.30	-1.99	3.95
Income Port Fxd	64.90	67.42	-0.66	1.51
BG-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 600 0033				
Capital	73.09	77.75	-0.26	1.87
International	63.64	67.70	-1.19	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 0131 222 4242				
American	283.80	303.50†	-5.90	
Bond	116.80	122.90†	-1.90	6.82
British Smllr Cos	109.40	116.40	-1.20	1.76
Cap & Gr Inc	68.23	72.59†	-0.79	5.41
Europe	230.60	245.30†	-2.10	0.65
Emerging Cos	102.60	110.90†	-0.48	0.67
Income Gwth	356.40	386.80†	-1.10	2.95
Japan	304.60	323.90†	-3.70	
Latin American	64.25	68.35	-1.64	
Pacific	103.15	162.70	0.62	1.29
Smllr Cos	55.20	62.10	-0.71	1.70
Japan Sm	690.00	670.50	-1.89	
World Pf	185.20	196.20†	-1.78	3.07
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 0171 423 8673				
Sec Gl	323.50	340.60	-3.30	0.84
Capital Gwth	117.85	124.00	-0.80	2.64
World Opps	196.60	208.90	+4.20	0.38
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD 0181 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Capital Inc For Inc	372.20	397.70†	-4.70	2.59
European Bd Inc	93.50	96.82	-0.22	6.92
Exempt	75.19	80.20†	-0.49	2.32
Financial	88.86	95.04	+1.64	2.60
500	463.70	501.30	-0.90	2.63
General	287.00	307.20†	+2.80	2.67
Property	245.30	251.10	-1.99	5.58
Trustee	203.20	216.70	-2.00	3.33
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.40	100.40†	+0.10	6
Extra Income #	125.30	134.60†	-0.90	5.03
Gilt & Fxd Int	58.17	60.12	-0.55	8.31
Income	550.50	589.90	-5.00	2.96
Income Builder #	66.28	69.93	-0.61	5.63
Intl Income	65.53	69.71	-0.92	3.26
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	127.00	135.42	-0.90	2.36
Leisure	142.60	152.50	-1.59	1.06
Recovery	220.60	271.20	-5.86	2.70
Smllr Cos Inc	47.21	50.66	-0.27	1.26
Special Sits	323.70	346.20	-3.09	1.50
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	151.50	161.90†	+4.90	0.29
Aust Acc	254.10	272.60	-5.30	3.13
Aust Inc	159.00	170.30	+3.20	3.15
Eur Gwth Inc	161.70	171.50	-1.30	0.77
-do- Accum	173.60	185.40	-1.50	0.77
Japan & Gen Inc	154.10	162.10	-1.80	
-do- Accum	155.90	165.00	-1.50	
Japan Spec Sits	70.97	75.18	-0.81	
Unv Tech Inc	83.80	35.71	-2.07	
Worldwide	174.90	187.60	-2.80	0.50
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 214 1004				
American Growth	110.90	117.30	+5.30	
Amer Smllr Cos	157.20	169.10	+9.70	
Convertibles	52.97	56.57†	-0.31	5.70
Eastern	272.90	291.00	-1.70	0.30
Equity Income	87.15	93.38†	-0.31	4.10
European Growth	318.40	337.70	-7.30	0.80
Europe	252.80	262.40	-5.30	0.20
German Growth	70.17	75.62	-0.06	0.50
Global Bond	66.69	70.20	-0.90	6.50
Global Growth	124.80	132.50	-3.00	
Japan Growth	199.70	206.70	-3.00	
Japan Smllr	146.10	155.20	-1.60	
Korea Trust	79.69	87.49	-0.60	
Portfolio	132.50	142.10	-0.20	2.30
-do- Accum	250.70	258.50	+0.40	2.30
UK Growth	85.67	91.77	-0.02	2.70
UK Smaller Cos	82.17	89.72†	-0.73	2.50
Select Managers	53.85	56.33	-0.59	1.02
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD 0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	80.69	85.84	-2.55	
Special Oppor Inc	55.13	58.65	-1.09	
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD 0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	120.03	127.91†	+2.24	1.48
-do- Accum	137.34	145.33	-2.57	1.48
Smaller Cos	118.54	124.91†	-2.42	4.88
Higher Yield #	48.99	51.74†	-0.23	4.29
American Gth Inc	82.67	87.69	-5.56	
European Growth	147.77	156.37	-4.32	0.52
-do- Accum	150.68	159.45	-4.46	0.52
Global Bond Inc #	17.45	18.42	-0.15	7.37
Mngd Ptolio Inc	45.37	48.20†	+1.01	1.47
-do- Accum	46.74	49.45	-1.04	1.46
Int Spec Opps	131.18	138.81	-5.80	
Pacific Gth	130.66	138.47	-0.04	0.30
UK General #	83.24	88.09	-0.55	3.19
-do- Accum #	86.71	91.75	+0.56	3.19
Japan	56.44	59.72	-0.57	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	98.89	103.51	-1.72	8.01
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	66.58	67.43	+0.32	6.31
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0161 837 5060				
Environ	167.40	178.10	-1.00	1.69
UK Growth	183.80	196.00	-2.01	2.15
UK Income	138.00	146.91†	-1.50	4.42
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD 01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	208.10	220.67	-1.97	1.30
-do- Income Dist	112.70	119.50†	-0.30	4.19
-do- Accum	355.00	376.30	-0.80	4.19
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.61	43.05	-0.40	8.32
Growth Units	220.80	236.30	+2.60	2.14
Bond	173.40	182.60	+1.90	6.45
Intl Growth	220.60	234.80	+3.90	0.46
North American	217.00	231.10	+6.80	0.33
Far East	277.80	297.10	+0.80	1.11
UK Smaller Cos	193.40	206.60	-1.80	1.56
European	87.77	92.87	-1.11	0.70
Japanese Growth	43.35	46.10	-0.16	
High Income	199.90	212.80†	-1.90	4.04
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD 0161 631 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	178.00	189.40†	+7.10	
European Inc	83.47	88.38	+1.98	1.18
Smaller Cos (4-11)	91.71	97.57	-0.25	1.57
Growth	464.60	494.30	-1.80	1.91
Income & Growth #	426.30	455.70	-0.50	3.94
-do- Accum #	623.80	663.70	+0.60	3.94
Japan & Gen	63.30	67.20	+0.35	
Mgd Portfolio	£106.15	£109.68†	[illegible]	2.37
-do- Accum	£128.77	£132.29	[illegible]	2.37
Special Sits	109.50	116.50	+1.00	1.97
High Yield	£13.73	£14.18†	[illegible]	4.45

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	90.55	96.72	-0.56	2.05
American Portfolio	105.39	111.58	+2.11	1.01
European Portfolio	109.86	117.44†	+2.37	0.58
High Income	50.72	50.68†	-0.08	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	63.41	67.46	+0.63	
Pacific Portfolio	139.61	150.12	-0.48	1.48
UK Inc & Growth	82.80	88.82†	-0.13	3.04
Utility & Bond	58.18	58.86	-1.57	6.52
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	707.18	717.86	-2.22	4.43
Fxd Int Sec	154.14	154.76	-1.99	9.30
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	694.89	705.19	-1.94	4.52
Investment Acc	6300.59	6310.05	-8.55	
Fixed Int Inc	125.25	125.75	+1.04	9.15
Fixed Int Acc	208.41	209.25	+1.74	
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD 0171 837 7667				
Intl Growth	117.35	129.72		
UK Income	110.56	120.00		8.33
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	87.24	92.12†	+1.13	2.64
Beck Bio-Tech	38.54	40.19	-0.77	
Accrd Ethical Tst	157.54	165.42	-5.41	0.75
City Fin Assets	73.29	76.95†	-0.52	2.12
City Fin America	94.25	98.97	-1.12	
City Fin Intl	82.27	86.35†	-0.22	1.38
City Fin Japan	138.80	145.75	-7.17	
Friars Hse Cap	278.00	301.28	-0.10	2.42
Friars Hse Inc	193.39	209.36	-0.04	4.03
Buckley Wrld Grth	132.12	140.05†	+2.36	
Falmount Cap Grth	138.32	145.65†	-4.72	
Famount Intl	146.74	154.45†	-6.64	
J Sid Inst Gth Inc	55.44	58.22	-0.05	2.01
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	54.53	57.36	-0.45	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	73.26	78.35	+3.16	
Atlas Mngd Gwth	38.91	42.14	+0.77	0.59
Dragon Growth	66.12	70.71	+0.18	0.97
Equity High Inc	85.64	91.74	+0.08	4.14
-do- Accum	118.90	127.38	-0.12	4.14
Extra Income Inc	70.19	72.58†	-0.31	7.53
Extra Income Acc	27.25	28.70	-0.32	7.53
European Gwth	55.37	58.90	-1.34	1.19
Evergreen	26.92	28.79	+0.06	
General Equity	90.26	96.77	-0.21	3.04
Japan Growth	46.32	50.08	+0.57	
Peregrine Gwth	54.75	58.83	-0.17	2.90
Ped Sm Cos Inc	32.36	34.43†	-0.24	1.70
-do- Accum	34.08	36.26	-0.02	1.70
Retirement Inc #	26.35	28.03	-0.07	5.88
Special Sits	40.97	43.59	+0.24	2.24
UK & Overseas	52.24	55.57	+0.96	1.27
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD 01634 898 000				
Capital	73.71	75.62	-0.53	2.01
Balanced	63.71	66.26	-0.20	4.24
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD 0181 686 5918				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	164.96	175.49†	+0.61	4.99
Fixed & Convertible	39.59	42.12†	+0.27	6.90
Monthly Inc Plus	48.47	51.56	+0.11	9.69
Preference Share	43.53	46.41	-0.23	8.05
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	125.15	133.14†	-0.41	6.10
Managed Fund	70.72	75.23†	-0.71	3.13
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	41.73	43.39	-0.43	1.80
-do- Accum	48.58	51.68	-0.49	1.83
UK & General	84.92	90.34†	-0.36	2.93
-do- Accum	105.93	115.95†	-0.41	2.65
UK Growth	157.72	167.73	-0.57	2.41
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	191.67	203.90	+3.88	0.12
Far Eastern Grth	124.51	132.46	-0.94	
Global Bond	31.56	33.66†	-0.74	6.10
Japan Growth	108.95	115.90	+0.93	
North Amer Gth	195.51	209.05	-6.78	
Overseas Growth	75.82	80.66	-0.07	0.07
Worldwide Growth	67.03	71.31	+1.76	0.11
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON-PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.82	91.82†	-0.08	6.69
[illegible]	83.99	89.35	-0.75	1.65
Quilter Fund	143.18	152.13	-1.20	2.94
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	32.23	34.47	-0.28	3.45
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 526 358				
Global	169.70	180.80†	-1.70	1.66
Income	71.39	75.93	-0.13	5.59
European	63.56	67.62	-0.83	1.06
[illegible]	159.90	169.70	-1.70	2.14
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD 0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	892.10	906.70	-5.50	3.50
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD 01277 690 370				
Fellowship Tst	86.79	94.66†	-3.09	1.55
Income #	255.40	271.70†	-0.20	4.35
-do- Accum #	654.50	696.70†	+0.40	4.35
Smaller Cos	191.30	204.00	-0.60	1.01
-do- Accum	236.00	251.00	-1.00	1.01
Inv Portfolio	87.50	93.08	-0.75	1.61
High Inc Port #	74.26	79.74	-0.02	4.47
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD 0171 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1535.00	1585.30	-28.70	
Japan Small Cos	1052.50	1073.50	-14.10	
UK Small Cos	1909.10	1948.60	-15.60	
US Small Cos	1817.30	1853.70†	-13.40	
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS 0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	219.60	231.40		2.91
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0131 315 2500				
Europe Sm Cos	295.80	318.30	-5.70	0.68
New Asia	212.50	226.10	+0.30	0.15
Japan Growth	106.10	112.80†	-0.70	
Jap Small Co	425.70	451.80	-1.10	
Nth Amer	321.40	340.20	-6.20	0.66
UK Inc & Gth	223.70	238.70†	-0.40	2.60
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD 01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	152.50	162.26	+1.40	1.65
UK High Inc Inc	159.10	169.20†	-0.90	4.35
-do- Accum	211.10	224.50†	-2.60	4.25
UK Prot & FI Inc	59.34	62.94	+0.74	4.98
Emerging Cos	92.07	97.94	-0.35	0.96
UK Smir Cos #	59.70	63.51	-0.25	0.01
Fxd Income Inc	47.50	50.50	+0.36	15.45
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0345 090 526				
American	141.60	150.30†	-2.80	1.16
Convertibles #	21.20	22.52	-0.09	6.22
Equity Income #	131.60	139.80	-0.20	3.73
EuroFund	50.77	53.83	+0.93	0.02
Financial	47.98	50.98†	-0.77	1.47
Growth & Inc #	254.80	270.10	-1.69	2.84
High Dist #	162.30	172.30†	-2.80	3.75
International	391.30	415.80	+5.70	0.12
Intl Cos Inc	95.15	101.60	-1.48	2.71
Latin American	24.63	26.19	+0.56	
Pacific	76.10	82.98†	+0.16	
Pref High Inc	21.34	22.67†	+0.17	7.28
Tokyo	209.70	222.10	-1.80	
UK Smaller Cos	254.20	270.10	+1.20	1.02
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD 0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Digs	95.97	102.21	+0.48	1.42
Growth Acc	232.18	247.90		0.75
Income	576.90	613.66	-5.65	5.22
Intl & General	399.38	416.77		0.15
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	208.90	222.29†	-0.60	1.08
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 01296 431 480				
European	93.67	98.07	-1.59	2.03
Ethical Tst	44.44	46.78	-1.06	1.41
Far Eastern	288.66	303.85	-2.52	1.84
High Income	134.74	141.83	-0.11	4.84
Intl Growth	119.48	125.77	-0.21	0.56
North American	127.39	134.08	+2.47	1.66
Pelican	124.32	130.86†	+0.38	3.42
Smaller Cos	67.12	70.65	-0.30	2.77
Special Sits	86.76	91.33	-1.04	2.87
Tst of Inv Tsts	189.99	199.99	-1.82	1.32
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	193.65	206.01†	-0.38	1.37
Smaller Cos Acc	342.71	364.59†	-0.68	1.37
Recovery	48.88	52.00	-0.14	1.90
Recovery Acc	49.77	52.95	-0.14	1.90
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD 01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	86.79	93.07†	-0.86	
Fd of Inv Tsts	46.81	49.93	+1.00	0.58
High Income #	41.95	43.90†	-0.39	10.48
Warrant	51.00	55.43†	+1.16	
Zero Preference	41.59	44.13	+0.18	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD 01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	80.67	85.81†	-0.02	3.08
Family Income Tst	44.08	44.08†	+0.26	6.68
Family Tst	89.51	95.22†	-0.21	2.01
United Charities	260.30	276.90†	-0.30	4.74
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		6.20
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	27.73	27.81	+0.27	7.19
Intl Bond	29.10	30.30†	-0.06	5.54
Income Funds				
High Income	24.77	26.04†	-0.09	5.54
Income Plus	117.00	124.60	-0.70	4.25
Amer Eq Inc	53.86	57.11†	-1.38	1.55
European Income	44.35	47.16	+0.20	3.43
Far East Inc	64.30	68.40	-0.04	2.41
Global Convertible	23.76	25.35	-0.19	2.76
UK Ov Gth	27.06	28.78	+0.15	2.35
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	59.34	63.30†	-1.32	
American	281.20	298.20	-9.50	
Amer Spec Sits	154.20	164.50	-8.30	
Japan Smaller Cos	33.82	36.08	-0.38	
Europe	191.30	203.50†	-1.20	
European Opps	68.14	72.46	-0.54	
Global Priv	27.43	29.17	+0.30	
UK Growth	103.20	109.80	-1.00	
Growth & Inc	154.30	164.10	-0.80	2.65
Intl PEP	41.58	44.22	-0.71	
Japan Spec Sits	81.15	86.34	-0.17	
Japan	175.70	187.00	+0.40	
Managed Intl	310.90	330.40	+6.40	
Moneybuilder	57.68	61.33	+0.49	
Recovery	49.15	52.26	-0.10	
South E Asia	161.40	172.20	-1.20	
Special Sits	592.40	629.90	-7.10	
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	111.63	111.63	+0.10	6.20
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD 0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	137.70	140.50	-1.50	2.33
Inc Ptolio #	88.24	89.92	-0.10	3.20
Cap Ptolio	148.20	150.70	-1.50	1.50
General Opps	127.30	129.60†	-0.30	3.60
Growth Inc	32.50	33.21†	+0.04	1.40
Private Portfolio	431.40	440.50	-4.80	1.93
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT Enq 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 261 010				
European	121.20	128.40	+2.30	0.61
Emrg Asian	150.10	160.50†	-2.90	
High Income	20.76	22.08†	+0.03	10.19
UK Growth	113.90	122.10	-0.10	2.51
UK Income	103.50	110.60†	-2.20	4.50
US Smaller Cos	357.80	383.60†	+8.00	
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD 0171 407 5966				
-do- Inv Tst Inc	76.48	80.42	-0.85	4.32
Investment Trust	97.52	102.54	-0.76	
UK Smaller Cos	91.15	95.85	-1.20	0.99

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Enq 0171 330 6600 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	69.80	74.48	+3.35	
-do- Accum	69.80	74.46	+3.35	
Amer Smllr Cos	586.80	629.50	+23.70	
-do- Accum	601.30	643.10	+24.30	
Capital Tst	334.40	355.60†	+1.80	1.51
-do- Accum	485.60	516.40†	+2.50	1.51
Conti Smllr Cos	58.32	62.18	-0.29	0.57
-do- Accum	61.55	65.62	-0.29	0.61
Convertible	131.20	139.50	+0.30	5.38
-do- Accum	270.50	287.70	-0.60	5.38
Emerging Markets	63.71	68.06	-0.32	
-do- Accum	63.76	68.11	-0.32	
European	125.00	132.50	+2.50	0.43
-do- Accum	131.50	139.30	+2.50	0.43
Extra Income	356.50	379.10	+0.90	3.87
-do- Accum	547.30	582.10	+1.40	3.87
Financial	140.80	150.80†	+2.40	0.72
-do- Accum	149.10	159.90†	+2.80	0.72
Gilt Trust	62.48	64.42†	+1.05	6.23
-do- Accum	92.01	94.87†	+1.55	6.23
Health Fund Inc	191.50	204.50	+4.40	
-do- Accum	191.50	204.50	+4.40	
Income & Growth	205.60	218.70	+0.50	3.62
-do- Accum	315.30	335.40	+0.90	3.62
Intl Growth	389.90	416.60†	+7.90	
-do- Accum	432.90	462.60†	+8.70	
Japan & Gen	172.20	183.60	+7.30	
-do- Accum	174.00	185.40	-1.20	
Monthly Inc	176.80	188.00†	+0.20	3.68
Managed Port Inc	111.00	118.80	+0.80	2.04
-do- Accum	119.10	125.40	+0.80	2.04
Quarterly Income	53.27	57.10	+0.30	4.48
-do- Accum	58.52	62.73	+0.33	4.48
Recovery	345.70	369.60	+5.20	0.16
-do- Accum	408.10	436.30	+6.20	0.16
UK Growth	58.32	62.33	-0.10	2.45
-do- Accum	61.81	66.06	+0.11	2.45
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	51.91	55.22†	+1.40	0.55
FP Am Smlr Cos	150.00	160.40	+4.70	
FP Asian Growth	252.30	269.80	-2.10	
FP Australian	345.50	370.70	-9.50	
FP Equity Dist	400.90	426.40†	-2.30	2.65
-do- Accum	869.80	925.30†	+7.10	2.65
FP Euro Gth	234.70	249.60	+4.70	0.19
-do- Accum	255.10	271.30	+5.20	0.19
FP Intl Bond	59.35	62.80	-0.07	4.78
FP Intl Gth Dist	33.64	35.80†	+0.23	0.52
-do- Accum	49.13	52.43†	+0.70	0.52
FP Pac Basin Acc	199.50	213.20†	-0.10	
FP Income	56.08	59.91	+0.57	4.64
-do- Accum	185.00	197.30	+1.90	4.64
FP Jap Smllr Cos	292.30	311.70	+0.80	
FP Monthly Dist	71.90	76.73†	+0.34	5.51
FP Eng Deposit	100.40	100.40†		6.25
FP Tokyo	76.56	81.69	+0.57	
FP UK Focus	36.68	39.44†	+0.35	2.76
FP UK Growth	180.50	192.40	+2.30	2.76
-do- Accum	354.30	377.90	+4.80	2.76
Stewardship Dist	357.20	380.00†	-4.50	1.91
-do- Accum	444.80	473.10†	-1.70	1.91
Stewardship Inc Dist	73.00	77.65	-1.15	3.72
-do- Accum	97.20	103.40	-0.60	3.72
N Am Stshp Dist	110.80	117.80	+3.70	0.87
-do- Accum	118.30	125.80	-4.00	0.87
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	112.30	119.40†	-0.20	1.08
Open Cap Gth Acc	116.70	124.10†	-0.30	0.11
Cap Gth Inc Inc	108.90	115.40	-0.30	2.24
Cap Gth Inc Acc	112.30	119.40	-0.20	2.24
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic	112.70	119.80	-1.70	3.36
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac	117.00	124.40	-1.80	3.36
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	255.90	270.60†	-0.30	2.28
Cash	49.39	50.02†	-0.51	5.32
Growth Portfolio	79.34	84.11	+1.07	0.97
Income Portfolio	65.13	68.87†	+0.42	4.47
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD 0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	208.70	223.20	+6.40	1.52
Dividend	91.49	97.85	+0.69	3.83
Intl Gth & Inc	229.50	245.50	+2.70	3.16
UK & Gen	46.22	49.43	-0.16	2.13
Fund of Funds	67.15	71.82†	-0.01	
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
Amer Spec Sits	213.90	228.80	-11.90	
European	606.00	648.20	-0.10	0.29
Euro Fd & Bd Inc	49.70	52.90†	-0.01	5.13
-do- Accum	54.08	57.57	-0.01	5.13
Far East & Gen	251.10	268.60	-1.80	
Germany	119.60	126.60†	-1.30	
High Yield #	48.74	51.52†	+0.03	8.25
-do- Accum #	51.18	54.10	-0.08	8.25
Income Inc	166.30	177.90	-2.10	4.41
-do- Accum	183.40	196.20	-2.30	4.41
International	347.90	372.10	+6.90	
Intl Income	86.73	91.92	+0.72	3.32
Japan & General	427.90	455.40	-8.50	
Korean Securities	69.80	74.66	-1.02	
Orient Acc	134.00	143.40	-0.80	0.24
Smlr Cos Div Inc	45.17	48.31	-0.29	4.18
-do- Accum	49.88	53.35	-0.32	4.18
UK Capital Inc	178.90	191.40	-1.90	1.49
UK Capital Acc	315.40	337.40	-2.20	1.49
UK Spec Sits	91.73	98.11†	-0.92	1.32
US & General	165.60	176.90	+8.09	
Wwide Spec Sits	146.90	157.20	-0.60	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS 0171 782 2000 Digs only 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	53.82	57.57	-0.53	1.84
Cash Trust	140.71	140.71	-0.13	6.15
Practical Inv Inc #	116.67	124.78	+1.92	2.74
-do- Accum #	273.81	292.84	+4.26	2.74
UK Index	160.61	161.42	-0.97	2.97
UK Smaller Cos	145.15	153.10†	+0.11	0.60
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	23.91	24.78†	-0.19	8.43
High Income	33.46	35.79†	-0.16	5.26
UK Equity Income	144.34	154.37	-0.92	2.82
Global Bond	29.84	30.92	-0.10	5.11
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	41.96	44.90	-0.80	
Global Managed	137.30	146.15†	+2.48	1.51
Gold & Intl Res	99.29	106.19	-1.82	
Global Utilities	138.09	147.90	+1.07	1.48
Overseas Funds				
American	171.53	182.95	+5.32	0.87
European	114.88	121.72	-2.49	0.97
Euro Sel Opps	172.14	182.50	+2.92	
Amer Emerging	135.99	145.44	+4.84	
Hong Kong	143.37	153.41	-2.25	1.88
Japan	225.19	238.99	-3.33	
Pacific Growth	208.95	223.48	-2.61	
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	228.74	228.74†	-1.35	2.14
Long Term Bal	250.51	250.51†	+1.36	3.13
Med Term Bal	211.15	211.15†	+1.64	3.29
UK Equity	263.46	263.46†	+2.22	2.52
UK Emerging Cos	153.59	153.59	-0.49	2.04
American	278.23	278.23	+7.92	1.12
Japan	119.50	119.50	+3.18	
European	298.27	298.27	+5.10	0.98
Index Linked Gilt	178.02	178.02	+1.03	2.72
Fixed Interest	166.08	166.08†	-2.37	6.48
Amer Emerging	326.12	326.12	+9.63	
Pacific	233.24	233.24	+2.61	0.75
Emerging Mkts	114.03	114.03	-0.62	0.77
Index Strat Japan	139.91	139.91	-1.79	0.21
-do- Pacific Basin	180.68	180.68	-1.14	1.44
-do- Cont Europe	164.19	164.19	+2.82	2.01
Index Strat USA	160.72	160.72	+3.81	1.97
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	107.80	114.68	+0.63	
Med Term Bal	100.42	106.83	+0.83	
Long Term Bal	112.58	119.77	+0.05	
UK Equity	121.91	129.70	+1.10	
UK Emerging Cos	72.00	76.59	-0.25	
American	129.10	137.35	+4.23	
Japan	57.18	60.83	+1.55	
European	123.96	131.87	+2.22	
Fixed Interest	84.42	89.81	+1.23	
Index Linked Gilt	79.08	84.13	+0.49	
Deposit	83.38	88.70	+0.08	
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Inc	146.33	154.03	-1.30	0.55
BrdW Gth Port Inc	66.66	70.35	-0.11	0.60
-do- Inc Port Inc	58.67	61.92	+0.03	3.50
-do- Wwide Port	55.98	59.08	+0.71	0.10
Shaw Utilities	64.25	67.81	-1.72	2.65
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stlg & Intl Inc	579.42	616.40	-3.47	2.24
-do- Accum	644.43	686.56	-3.86	2.24
European Inc	157.42	167.36	+0.91	1.29
Amalgam Inc	150.76	159.78	-1.36	
N America Inc	342.27	364.12	+1.31	0.73
Far East Inc	358.27	381.14	-2.31	
-do- Accum	371.96	394.75	-2.40	
UK Dvrts Inc	184.00	195.74	-4.13	3.38
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD 0171 378 7979 Dealing 0171 407 7888				
UK Equity Inc	97.44	104.20	+1.15	4.40
UK Small Cos	56.60	60.53	-0.13	0.96
British Growth	62.86	67.22	+1.35	2.59
American Gwth	235.29	251.64	+17.22	
Japan Gwth	83.43	87.83	-0.44	
Greater China	178.12	190.49	-1.77	0.44
Pacific Strategy	146.48	156.66	-2.12	0.33
European Gwth	93.76	100.00†	+1.65	0.73
Intl Growth	156.21	167.13	-2.89	
US Index (£)	15.8659	16.7183	+0.50	4.60
FT-SE Mid 250 Ind	80.00	85.56	-0.66	2.33
Monthly Income	39.97	42.58†	-0.02	8.00
MIG Unit Trust Dealing 0171 665 0033				
Grid UT Index (£)	12.5176	13.2149	+0.34	4.90
GRANVILLE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 488 1212				
Small Cos	98.65	104.95	+3.30	1.46
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD 0171 538 8668				
European	514.60	549.70	+5.70	0.50
Gilt & Fixed	129.00	135.80	+2.10	5.74
Growth Equity	370.90	396.20	+2.90	1.57
Income Trust	143.50	153.30	+1.10	3.23
International	191.20	204.30	+2.90	0.19
Japan Trust	120.40	128.60	+1.50	
Nth American	312.40	333.70†	+11.40	
Pacific	531.50	567.80†	-3.60	0.14
Gsrdhill	557.80	598.00	-7.40	1.80
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD 0171 522 2129				
EMU Trust	105.12	109.11	-0.47	6.66
Global High Inc	99.22	103.02†	-1.41	6.69
Corporate Bond	103.72	107.67	+0.99	8.44
Eqty & Bond Inc	107.21	114.00†	-0.62	4.82
European Growth	110.34	117.31	-2.03	
Intl PEP Trust	63.88	67.92	+1.35	
Equity Inc	127.62	135.69†	-1.40	3.83
-do- Accum	181.58	193.07	+0.42	3.83
Recovery	350.40	372.50†	-4.20	2.00
-do- Accum	410.70	436.60	-4.90	2.00
St Vinc High Inc	127.80	129.71	+0.41	6.89
UK Emerg Cos	260.60	277.10†	-1.90	2.06
UK Smlr Cos	357.30	383.80	-0.70	2.69
Glob Priv Tst	94.70	100.89†	+1.57	1.45
-do- Accum	98.47	102.56	+1.45	1.45
Inc Share Tst	90.25	95.96	-0.94	7.76
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD Dealing 0171 220 5050				
Growth	28.78	30.51	+0.12	1.91
Growth Acc	29.14	30.90	-0.12	1.91
Income	28.83	30.57†	+0.02	3.96
Income Acc	29.55	31.33	+0.02	3.96
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 690 390				
Model Ptolio	216.30	227.20	-2.50	2.53
Smaller Cos	33.30	35.43	-0.02	1.35
HENDERSON TOUCHE REMNANT Enquiries 01277 263 290 Dealing 01277 234 772				
UK Funds				
Special Sits	330.08	353.18	+1.43	1.33
Best of British	65.43	69.60†	-0.81	2.76
UK Smaller Cos	135.75	145.93	-0.88	1.70
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	287.44	306.11	-0.47	3.63
-do- Accum #	785.47	836.49	-1.29	3.63
High Income	327.70	349.05†	-1.27	4.53
Extra Income #	284.90	302.99	-1.25	5.10
Pref & Bond	47.15	48.74†	+0.35	8.50
International				
International	286.43	304.99†	-6.39	0.41
Global Bond	55.17	58.55	+0.25	5.46
Intl Port Tst	88.23	94.35	-0.24	0.59
Global Tech	240.30	256.85†	-13.87	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Emerging	172.85	184.84	-2.92	0.64
European	522.48	553.75†	-3.82	0.79
European Income #	63.57	68.41	-0.92	1.94
Euro Smlr Cos	160.37	171.85†	+0.79	0.64
Eur Sp Sits	76.91	82.06†	+1.30	1.08
-do- Accum	82.39	87.90	+1.29	1.09
Japan Trust	212.08	226.16	+5.55	
Japan Special Sits	207.40	221.26†	+0.93	
Pacific Smlr Cos	226.46	242.31†	-0.83	0.09
North American	271.32	288.14	-10.44	0.29
American Smaller	134.05	143.29†	+3.91	
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS 0181 686 4355				
British	107.99	113.08	+0.79	1.96
Capital	184.08	192.74	+1.49	1.46
Dollar	427.01	447.13†	+15.56	
Enterprise Gth	359.23	376.16	+0.57	1.35
European	242.54	253.97	-4.06	0.42
Far East	302.91	317.18	-1.55	
Financial	911.67	954.63†	+18.60	1.78
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	25.71	26.74†	-0.25	6.82
High Yield	106.62	111.65	+0.64	3.84
Income & Growth	149.37	156.41†	+0.70	3.19
International	270.40	283.14	+3.84	0.63
Japanese General	200.95	210.42	+2.07	
Japan Tech	87.95	92.10	+1.25	0.09
Nat Resources	74.43	77.93†	+1.24	
Portfolio	76.94	80.56†	-0.35	1.39
Smaller Cos	140.26	146.87†	-0.98	1.13
Special Sits	172.10	180.21	+2.24	1.09
UK Emerging Cos	103.04	107.89	-0.29	0.92
US Smaller Cos	116.94	122.45	+3.83	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
UK Funds				
Balanced #	106.40	113.60†	-0.50	5.93
Capital	641.40	684.90†	-4.80	2.25
Income #	599.70	640.00	+2.70	5.23
Footsie Fund	58.85	58.94	-0.32	2.79
Trade Index	114.70	121.40	+1.10	2.06
UK Index	150.50	159.30	-1.30	2.90
International Funds				
American Growth	538.80	572.80	+20.00	0.37
American Index	241.60	255.70	+6.20	1.32
European Growth	120.70	128.70	-3.10	0.16
Eurotrack 100	173.80	183.90	+3.60	1.05
Global Bond	22.43	23.67	-0.11	5.23
Japan Growth	274.30	292.40†	-6.50	
Japan Index	74.80	79.15	+1.01	0.21
Japan Smir Cos	37.97	37.98	-0.27	
Far Eastern Funds				
Asian	57.34	61.20	-0.63	0.20
Hong Kong Gwth	113.90	121.60	-2.60	5.31
Singapore & Malysn Gth	71.57	76.38	-3.36	
Tiger Index	196.10	207.50	-2.50	1.09
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD 0171 626 3434 Dealing 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	38.03	39.53	+0.23	1.06
General Funds				
Managed	77.85	80.93†	-0.79	1.16
Rupert Chain Fnd	91.53	95.15	-0.45	2.31
UK Growth	63.76	66.28†	-0.46	2.33
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	83.01	86.29	+0.47	6.60
Gilt & Fixed Int	26.75	27.60†	+0.30	8.38
UK Inc & Grth	42.63	44.31†	+0.32	2.52
UK Income	335.60	348.90†	+0.70	5.03
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	54.80	56.83	+1.58	0.38
Amer Smlr Cos	132.10	137.30	-4.90	
-do- Accum	133.50	138.80	-4.90	
Europe Gth	180.50	187.20	-2.40	
-do- Accum	186.90	193.90	-2.50	
Euro Smaller Cos	33.87	35.21†	-0.74	
French Growth	80.86	84.05	+2.28	0.27
-do- Accum	86.74	90.17	-2.42	0.27
H Kong & China	83.45	86.75	-1.30	1.35
Intl Growth	60.19	62.57†	+0.61	0.55
-do- Accum	61.03	63.44†	-0.64	0.55
Japan Gth	30.19	31.38	-0.50	
-do- Accum	30.19	31.38	-3.50	
Japan Smaller Cos	37.24	38.71	-0.12	
Glob Emg Mkts	90.22	93.78	-0.53	
-do- Accum	90.86	94.45	-0.53	
SE Asia	314.30	326.70	+2.90	0.33
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	55.45	57.14	-0.12	5.94
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 261010				
Sector Value Inc	95.36	100.20	+0.20	4.99
Sector Value Grth	95.49	100.50	-0.50	1.99
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Health	183.70	195.40	+0.60	
Income	179.60	191.06	-0.65	3.13
UK Growth	69.25	73.68	-0.60	0.40
International	79.41	84.46	-0.49	0.07
Ecology	89.17	94.85†	+0.05	1.13
European	143.15	152.29	-0.67	
Far Eastern	287.00	305.20	-5.20	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	98.90	102.30	+1.00	7.52
Gilt Yield	117.10	123.60	-1.80	6.56
Global Income	212.70	226.30†	-0.10	3.63
High Yield	141.70	150.70†	-1.02	5.93
-do- Accum	447.10	475.60†	+3.20	5.93
Smllr Cos Div	54.43	57.90†	-0.90	2.96
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	115.80	123.20	+4.10	
Asian Growth	313.20	333.30†	-2.20	0.25
-do- Accum	368.10	391.60†	-2.70	0.25
North American	91.77	97.63	+3.35	0.24
European Special	120.00	127.70	-4.50	0.10
European	159.00	169.10	+2.60	0.46
-do- Accum	209.50	222.90	+3.50	0.46
Global Eqty Inc	108.80	115.60	+1.20	2.23
Japan	389.00	424.50	+6.50	
Japanese Special	225.60	240.00	+0.30	
Smaller Cos	119.10	126.70	-0.30	1.17
UK Equity Growth	42.73	45.46	+0.32	1.62
UK Index Inc	297.10	300.10†	-3.10	3.62
Bircham Tsr	95.18	105.70		2.84
-do- Accum	98.18	105.70		2.84
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT 0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	268.60	285.74†	+0.12	5.42
Inc & Growth Inc	58.38	62.11	+0.42	4.46
Smaller Cos	65.23	69.39†	-0.07	1.45
LAURENTIAN UNIT TST MGMT LTD Enq 01452 371 500 Dlg 01452 371 623				
Growth Trust	266.80	283.80	+3.50	1.89
High Income	111.60	118.70	+2.30	4.38
International	98.86	105.20	-1.50	0.56
Recovery Trust	69.65	74.00†	-0.43	1.50
European Trust	80.04	85.14	+1.14	0.89
Japanese Trust	39.48	42.00	+0.40	
American Trust	100.20	106.50†	+4.20	
Managed	67.94	72.27	+0.58	0.68
Cash	51.18	51.16	+0.04	5.01
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01277 690 432				
UK Cap	396.60	418.70	-2.90	2.45
UK Inc/Gth	425.80	450.30	-1.90	3.10
UK Income	296.90	315.00†	-2.80	3.81
UK Sm Cos	258.90	278.00	-1.20	1.77
Euro Gwth	139.40	147.70†	+2.60	
N Amer Gwth	104.40	110.70†	+2.70	0.22
Japan Growth	80.46	84.15†	+0.28	
Money Mkt	127.355	127.355		0.000
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 690 395				
Equity Dist	515.20	548.10	+3.50	2.66
-do- Accum	£10.40	£11.06	+7.00	2.66
Equity Income #	100.90	107.30		4.44
UK Tactical Allocdn	60.53	64.38†	+0.48	4.39
European	126.00	134.00	-2.60	1.68
Far Eastern	211.20	224.70†	+0.10	
Fixed Interest	52.61	55.95†	+0.53	7.35
Gilt	89.17	94.56†	+1.07	6.49
Global Growth	75.58	80.40	+1.23	0.36
Intl Bond	54.10	57.44	-0.04	4.68
Japanese	71.47	76.03†	+0.58	
North American	172.80	183.60	+4.80	0.42
Pacific Growth	105.50	112.20†	-0.30	0.21
UK Index	67.47	71.21†	+0.39	3.15
UK Recovery	100.80	107.20†	+0.30	1.97
UK Smaller Cos	138.10	146.90	+1.60	1.46
US Index	72.05	76.04	+1.91	1.40
European Index	80.53	84.90	+1.46	2.16
Japan Index	38.25	40.37	+0.53	
Worldwide	88.54	94.19	+0.71	1.57
LINCOLN NATIONAL 0181 802 8876 Dealing 0800 262 621				
Growth	52.39	56.03	-0.20	2.22
Income	61.34	65.60	-0.41	3.10
Far East	50.90	54.44	-0.02	
North American	127.20	135.90	-6.10	
Global	102.80	110.00	-2.10	0.17
European	89.34	95.55	+0.42	0.59
Japan	98.50	105.40†	+0.80	
Intl Currency Bd	60.52	64.19†	-0.38	4.33
SE Asia	97.97	104.60	-0.80	
UK Cap Growth	94.81	101.40†	+0.30	1.79
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD Helpdesk 01634 834 339 Dealing 01634 834 313				
Balanced	363.30	386.50†	-2.50	2.75
-do- Accum	847.90	902.10	-6.00	2.75
Consl Euro Gth	68.34	71.94†	+1.36	1.33
-do- Accum	73.54	77.42	+2.00	1.33
Extra Inc	272.80	290.30	-2.80	4.07
-do- Accum	721.70	767.60	-7.00	4.07
FTSE 100 Inc	108.50	115.50	+1.30	2.59
FTSE 100 Acc	110.40	117.50	+1.20	2.59
German Gth	131.10	138.00	+0.30	
-do- Accum	137.50	144.80	+0.30	
Growth Port	582.10	619.30†	+4.70	0.08
-do- Accum	599.30	637.60	+4.80	0.08
High Interest Inc	96.50	100.00	+1.17	7.82
High Interest Acc	98.50	100.00	+1.17	7.82
Hi Reserve Inc #	104.80	111.50	-1.01	6.54
Hi Reserve Acc #	107.40	114.30	+1.00	6.54
Income	511.10	543.90†	-11.00	3.57
-do- Accum	£14.19	£15.10	-29.30	3.57
Income Port	535.10	569.30†	+9.50	4.53
-do- Accum	583.20	620.50	+10.30	4.53
Japan Growth	104.70	111.40	+1.10	
-do- Accum	105.10	111.90	+1.20	
Master Trust	81.80	84.90	+0.63	1.28
-do- Accum	69.20	73.73	+0.71	1.28
N American Gen	211.30	224.80	+6.70	0.67
-do- Accum	244.30	259.90	+7.79	0.67
NAm Sm Co Rec	167.20	177.90	-6.60	
-do- Accum	170.60	181.50	+8.80	
Pacific Basin	250.30	266.30	-0.90	0.51
-do- Accum	265.80	282.90	-1.00	0.51
Small Cos Rec	428.00	452.80†	-0.80	1.88
-do- Accum	583.00	613.70	-0.90	1.88
UK Growth	91.96	97.88	+0.72	2.20
-do- Accum	113.30	120.60	+1.90	2.20
Worldwide Gth	326.60	347.50	+4.40	
-do- Accum	481.80	512.60	+6.50	

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT 01392 282 673				
American	76.29	81.77	+1.73	0.40
General	95.60	102.57†	+0.10	2.40
Income	67.85	72.80	+0.44	5.30
International	67.40	72.31	+1.06	0.50
Japan	54.72	58.71	+0.54	
Tst of Inv Tsts	69.89	74.99†	-0.79	1.50
M & G SECURITIES Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	453.10	479.20	-16.90	0.42
-do- Accum	565.60	598.20	-21.10	0.42
Amer Recovery	498.90	527.60†	-13.80	0.44
-do- Accum	574.80	607.90†	+15.90	0.44
Amer Smlr Cos	140.90	149.00	+3.70	
-do- Accum	144.00	152.30	+3.80	
Australasian	157.20	166.20	-2.60	2.61
-do- Accum	194.00	205.10	+3.20	2.61
Capital	887.50	938.50	+4.40	2.85
-do- Accum	1029.30	1088.50	-5.10	2.85
Charifund	722.00	729.30†	-5.70	5.93
-do- Accum	3549.70	3585.20†	-43.70	5.93
Commodity	393.00	421.90	-11.30	0.48
-do- Accum	587.70	621.60	-16.70	0.48
Compound Grth	1018.70	1077.30†	-7.30	2.89
-do- Accum	1096.00	1159.10†	-7.90	2.89
Dividend	43.30	45.80	+0.20	4.34
-do- Accum	184.60	195.30	+0.80	4.34
Equity Income	342.60	362.30	-2.40	4.91
-do- Accum	454.70	480.80	-3.20	4.91
Euro & General	531.10	561.60	-0.70	1.21
-do- Accum	676.90	715.80	-0.90	1.21
Euro Dividend	73.90	78.10	-0.40	3.92
-do- Accum	91.10	96.20	-0.40	3.92
Extra Yield	436.30	462.00	-6.50	4.87
-do- Accum	1475.00	1496.30	+17.70	4.87
Far Eastern	338.30	357.70	-1.90	0.57
-do- Accum	451.20	477.10	-2.60	0.57
Fund of Inv Tsts	645.90	683.00	-10.00	1.90
-do- Accum	1218.60	1288.70	-18.60	1.90
General	84.70	88.40	+0.60	3.85
-do- Accum	184.50	195.10	+7.70	3.85
Gilt Income	61.15	61.21	-0.63	7.20
-do- Accum	174.87	175.21	+2.36	7.20
Gold	65.80	67.50	+1.40	0.95
-do- Accum	75.60	80.10	+1.80	0.95
High Income	33.90	32.70	-0.30	4.59
-do- Accum	126.80	134.20	+0.90	4.59
Intl Growth	80.30	84.90	-0.50	0.51
-do- Accum	141.10	149.20	-0.80	0.31
International Inc	101.50	107.20†	-0.80	4.17
-do- Accum	156.90	165.90†	+1.20	4.17
Japan & Gen	39.50	41.80	-0.40	
-do- Accum	42.40	44.80	+0.40	
Japan Smlr Cos	137.90	145.90†	-2.10	
-do- Accum	138.90	145.90†	-2.80	
Managed Gwth	24.70	26.10		1.50
Managed Income	28.50	29.30†	+0.10	4.14
Midland	59.20	62.60†	-1.60	3.43
-do- Accum	203.70	214.50†	-5.50	3.43
Pension Ex	990.40	1015.20†	-6.40	4.36
Recovery	44.40	47.00	-0.37	2.65
-do- Accum	74.00	78.30	-0.40	2.65
Second General	72.00	76.10	+0.10	3.74
-do- Accum	189.30	200.10	-0.30	3.74
Smaller Cos	69.90	73.90	-1.60	3.21
-do- Accum	141.00	149.00	-3.40	3.21
Sterling Hi Int	25.01	25.11†	-0.39	7.70
Treasury	25.08	25.12†	-3.21	6.25
Trustee	42.00	44.40†	-0.10	4.51
-do- Accum	175.80	185.90†	-3.40	4.51
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD Dealing 01277 261 010 Enq 01903 204 631				
European Growth	86.01	91.49†	-1.61	1.40
Intl Bond	65.22	69.54†	-1.25	5.54
Intl Equity Growth	76.63	81.40†	-0.89	0.74
N Amer Growth	115.38	122.57	+4.11	0.92
Special Sits Growth	23.25	24.84	-0.20	2.33
UK Growth	402.40	429.14†	-2.08	2.80
-do- Accum	540.25	574.72	-5.48	2.80
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1370.80	1391.10	-25.66	3.62
Income #	1003.70	1019.20	-0.50	4.20
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	155.20	159.19	-0.50	3.20
For Manulife see Canada Life				
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Ptfolio	162.50	171.10	+1.10	2.13
-do- Accum	189.10	199.10	+1.30	2.13
UK Sel Ptfolio	141.70	149.20	+0.40	2.49
-do- Accum	166.70	175.50	+0.46	2.49
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	70.76	75.28†	+0.34	3.82
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	75.84	80.51	+0.51	4.15
European	89.41	94.92	+0.80	1.20
Income #	76.52	81.23†	-0.93	4.99
Nth American	75.85	80.52	+1.74	0.58
Far East	162.60	172.60	-1.00	0.10
Japan	56.58	60.06	+0.23	
Emgng Mkts	82.07	87.78	-1.45	0.02
Intl Growth	114.70	121.80†	+1.10	0.92
UK Growth	104.90	111.40†	-1.50	1.65
UK Smlr Co	50.49	53.60†	-0.73	1.37
Asian Opps Fd	35.79	38.28	-0.58	0.08
Glob Gwth PEP	53.89	57.20†	+0.40	0.49
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Income	436.86	464.53	-2.82	3.82
Global Inc	72.29	76.90	+0.76	3.64
Bnl Leaders	373.90	397.77	-1.81	1.76
Intl Leaders	210.53	223.97	+4.38	1.38
PAM Mg Bal Grth	65.84	68.40	-0.23	0.76
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD Dealing 0171 280 2080				
American	228.30	241.90	+9.40	
-do- Accum	243.90	258.40	+10.00	
American Opps	108.30	115.50†	+3.40	
-do- Accum	109.60	116.90†	+3.40	
British Blue Chip	85.01	90.34†	+1.02	2.66
-do- Accum	107.60	114.30†	+1.40	2.66
Cash	100.20	100.20†		6.34
-do- Accum *	142.40	142.40†	+0.20	6.34
Emerging Mkts	103.20	111.00	+0.50	0.13
-do- Accum	103.80	111.60	+0.40	0.13
European Growth	266.80	283.30	+4.50	0.16
-do- Accum	289.30	307.50	+4.90	0.16
European Income	87.08	92.47	-1.06	3.11
-do- Accum	130.90	139.40	-1.50	3.11
General	540.90	575.60	+5.40	2.15
-do- Accum	1079.00	1148.00	-10.00	2.15
Global Bond	129.30	135.80†	-0.20	5.43
-do- Accum	162.90	171.10†	-0.30	5.43
Gold & General	195.90	210.60		0.43
-do- Accum	202.20	217.40	-8.10	0.43
Govt Securities	93.53	96.43	+0.84	6.09
-do- Accum	186.50	192.30	+1.70	6.09
High Yield Bd	100.20	103.70	+0.80	7.05
-do- Accum	100.20	103.70	+0.80	7.05
Income	164.30	174.60†	+1.20	4.06
-do- Accum	264.40	281.00†	+3.50	4.06
Inc Portfolio #	102.90	109.00†	+0.90	4.82
-do- Accum #	107.40	114.00†	+1.20	4.82
Intl Opps	480.70	512.70	+5.80	0.17
-do- Accum	644.00	685.90	+7.80	0.17
Japan	161.70	171.50	+1.40	
-do- Accum	165.90	176.00	+1.40	
New Europe	193.90	206.80	+2.60	0.97
-do- Accum	199.90	213.20	+2.70	0.97
Pacific	109.90	117.20	-0.90	0.87
-do- Accum	117.80	125.80	-0.90	0.87
Recovery	322.50	344.00†	-2.10	0.75
-do- Accum	418.20	446.10†	-2.60	0.75
UK Smaller Cos	57.11	60.92	-0.25	0.85
-do- Accum	65.20	69.55	-0.28	0.85
Portfolio	85.39	90.65†	+0.90	2.55
-do- Accum	102.80	109.20†	+1.20	2.55
Managed Grth	105.00	110.80†	+1.10	1.72
Managed Inc	110.40	114.60	+1.00	3.95
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD 01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	125.68	133.68	+1.99	0.18
Portfolio	70.92	75.45	+0.77	1.59
UK Income Inc	81.50	86.70	+1.04	5.02
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD Enq 0345 456 123 Dlg 0345 456 126				
Balanced	62.87	65.83†	+0.58	2.93
-do- Accum	68.14	71.35†	+0.64	2.93
British Tst	93.58	97.97	+0.73	1.94
-do- Accum	109.80	114.90	+0.90	1.94
Extra High Inc	68.34	71.56†	-0.27	6.58
-do- Accum	138.03	144.50†	-0.60	6.58
FT-SE 100 Acc	60.38	63.22	+0.35	2.62
FT-SE 100 Dist	58.56	61.32	+0.32	2.62
Gilt & Fxd Int	55.52	57.78	+0.58	6.89
-do- Accum	167.30	174.10	+1.80	6.89
High Yield	223.60	234.10†	-5.00	6.18
-do- Accum	589.90	617.60†	-3.00	6.18
Income	290.80	310.60	+1.60	3.96
-do- Accum	667.50	698.90	-3.60	3.96
Money Market UT	49.22	49.22†	-0.45	5.57
-do- Accum	79.83	79.83†	-0.08	5.67
Monthly Income	87.58	91.71†	-0.37	4.96
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	114.80	122.10	-1.00	1.61
European Growth	109.30	115.90	-0.40	0.05
Gilt & Fixed	92.20	97.80	+1.15	5.67
Income	90.89	96.69	+0.49	2.64
Japan Growth	49.72	52.70	-0.08	
Managed	74.54	79.30	-1.45	2.22
Money Market	93.31	95.73	+0.02	4.23
North American	97.51	102.40	-0.46	0.43
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	104.10	110.70	-0.90	1.60
European Growth	102.70	108.90	-0.40	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	87.46	92.77	+1.07	5.67
Income	89.15	94.94	+0.48	2.71
Japan Growth	48.51	52.48	+0.05	
Managed	70.59	75.10	+0.70	2.21
Money Market	83.34	83.34	-0.21	4.16
North American	88.25	93.54	-0.26	0.52
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	103.63	110.40	-0.60	1.59
European Growth	100.30	106.30	-0.40	
Gilt & Fixed Int	80.49	85.38	-0.94	5.73
Income	87.83	93.22	-0.44	2.74
Japan Growth	50.62	53.66	+0.05	
Managed	74.91	79.73	+0.69	2.20
Money Market	77.55	82.20	+0.08	4.23
North American	95.57	101.50	-0.30	0.40
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD 0171 407 5966				
International (US$)	14.53	15.16	-0.30	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD Dealers 0171 826 0826 Enquiries 0171 826 0123				
American Gwth	425.30	451.70	-19.90	
European Gth Inc	574.60	615.90	-12.90	
-do- Accum	580.80	622.80	-12.10	
Intl Gwth	207.10	220.20	-5.20	
UK Equity Inc	202.10	215.10†	-1.90	2.97
UK Ind Trk Inc	175.50	186.60	-1.90	2.71
-do- Accum	213.80	227.30	+2.30	2.71
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	237.70	251.90	-6.10	1.11
Japan Tracker	70.01	74.19†	+0.99	
Asian Tracker	204.60	221.60	-1.00	0.29
Managed Inc	163.50	173.92	-1.10	2.16
Deposit Inc	100.14	100.64†	-0.08	5.39
Europa	243.00	256.20	-7.00	
Germany	178.45	190.40†	-2.00	1.65
High Income	21.15	22.45	-0.05	10.30
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT 0345 090 933				
Acumen	99.77	102.00†	-0.60	2.53
Acumen Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	-0.95	2.53
Acumen Recvry	[illegible]	[illegible]	-0.52	8.25
-do- Inc	72.20	73.93†	-0.67	8.25
American Growth	48.05	51.55	-0.94	
Cash Income	49.51	49.52	-0.50	5.98
Equity Income #	[illegible]	152.50	-0.30	4.85
European	[illegible]	77.13	+1.88	0.42
Smaller Cos	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.15	1.33
World Eqty	67.46	53.17	-2.98	0.79
Global Bond	[illegible]	[illegible]	-0.46	6.49
UK Growth	103.80	109.20	+0.55	2.15
Pacific Growth	118.10	125.60†	-3.40	0.70
Japan Growth	97.75	98.60†	+1.45	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 261 010				
[illegible]	126.56	133.32	-0.52	2.58
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 0161 237 5522				
UK Growth	79.67	84.04	-0.73	2.16
UK Income	116.61	122.69	-1.00	3.30
Higher Income	216.57	232.52	-2.09	5.25
Smaller Cos	93.93	98.58	-1.41	1.85
International	101.43	107.66†	-1.51	1.83
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS 0171 623 4200				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER UT MGRS Dlg 01277 690 000 Admin Enq 01277 690 505				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD Enquiries 0500 550 000 Dealing 0500 440 000				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD 0191 285 2556				
Vantage	102.40	109.40	-1.20	2.34
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS 01603 622 224				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD 01256 768 888				
European Inc	255.70	274.70	-2.30	0.42
-do- Accum	270.60	290.90	-1.30	0.42
Japan Inc	93.29	99.90†	-2.60	
Nth American Inc	115.90	123.10	-2.60	0.31
Worldwide Inc	164.30	176.30	-3.00	0.39
Hong Kong Inc	148.00	158.90	-1.90	1.61
Swiss Equities Inc	25.47	28.18	-0.40	0.11
Wwide Bond Inc	64.91	68.65	-0.62	5.15
Emgng Asia Inc	202.10	219.90	-5.30	0.11
-do- Accum	202.90	220.80	-5.20	0.11
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.02	50.02†	-0.05	6.41
Thailand Inc	156.40	170.10†	-5.90	1.34
Gold Trust Inc	69.65	77.08	-0.63	0.19
New Zealand Inc	95.62	102.60†	-0.20	1.84
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	64.74	69.55	-0.97	1.46
Latin Am Emg Inc	54.18	58.61	-0.61	0.33
UK All Sh Idx Inc	63.54	68.15	-0.21	2.53
Broker Unit Trusts				
Global Trustees	81.19	86.82	-0.09	
Global Portfolio	72.05	76.73	-1.49	
Global Opps	66.05	70.64	-0.34	
Marsh Global Grth	64.12	68.31	+0.76	
AAM Global Equity	55.26	58.59	+0.04	2.13
CAM Brit Gwth Inc	100.30	107.20	-0.80	
Tecnole Equity Inc	45.23	49.33	+0.71	2.30
Hartley Growth	90.48	96.25	-0.04	
Intl Growth Inc	88.97	95.16†	-0.17	1.01
IFS Portfolio Inc	86.48	92.49	-0.74	
Premier Perfmc Inc	68.01	72.74	+0.06	1.80
Rezbergh Sustr Gth	73.89	79.03	-0.08	0.47
Stoller Gwth	110.40	117.40†	+0.50	
Rosebery Growth	50.53	54.39	-0.24	0.58
International Sust	77.95	83.37	-1.15	
UFC Ind-Act Grth	57.39	61.87	-0.06	
Coverdale Topout	50.75	54.82	-0.33	
Peers Equity Inc	110.70	120.90	-1.00	
Lowes Intl Grower	48.98	51.56	-0.38	
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD Dlg 0800 626 577 Enq 01733 470 470				
Equity	255.30	271.60	+1.80	2.63
-do- Accum	545.90	580.70	+3.80	2.63
Growth	165.50	173.10	-0.80	2.93
Income	248.60	264.40†	-2.40	3.78
Intl Equity	261.40	278.00	-3.50	0.78
-do- Accum	291.00	309.60	+4.00	0.78
UK Income	69.17	73.58	+0.53	3.28
UK Intl 25	84.50	89.89	+0.53	2.13
New Europe	86.72	92.25	-0.89	0.34
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT 01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	628.69	673.62†	-10.88	0.55
-do- Accum	630.56	674.40	-10.92	0.55
Income	395.27	422.75†	-0.17	3.10
Wwide Recovery	408.10	437.56	-5.24	0.48
Amer Growth Inc	257.00	274.87	+12.47	0.01
-do- Accum	257.00	274.87	+12.47	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	252.49	270.05	-5.02	0.13
Far Eastn Gth Inc	281.70	301.29	-3.65	0.39
-do- Accum	281.70	301.29	+3.65	0.39
Euro Gwth Inc	162.72	174.04	+3.72	0.15
-do- Accum	163.13	174.48	+4.59	0.15
UK Growth Inc	101.39	108.44	-0.04	2.67
-do- Accum	106.66	114.09	-0.04	2.67
High Income	105.43	112.76	-0.25	3.85
Jap Gwth Inc	200.78	213.92	+2.69	0.01
-do- Accum	200.78	213.92	+2.69	0.01
PEP Growth	128.25	137.17	+1.45	0.83
Asian Sr Mkts Inc	125.29	134.01	-0.62	0.33
-do- Accum	125.29	134.01	-0.62	0.33
Amer Smlr Co Inc	165.15	176.64†	+7.32	0.01
-do- Accum	165.15	176.64	+7.32	0.01
Global Bond	56.35	58.34	+0.34	5.64
UK Smaller Cos Inc	90.34	96.63	-0.64	1.68
-do- Accum	95.05	101.67	-0.88	1.68
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0191 201 3927				
American	114.95	122.29†	+0.28	
European	79.49	84.56	0.10	
Global	64.24	68.34	-0.29	
Pacific	57.22	60.87†	-0.92	
UK Inc & Gth	69.75	74.20	-0.05	2.24
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD Enq 0171 638 0808 Dlg 01277 690 430				
Fund of Funds	173.93	184.05	-1.07	0.65
Energ Mkts	45.14	47.77	-1.26	1.09
High Income #	52.69	55.76†	+0.03	5.83
PREMIUM LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01444 458 721				
Monthly Income	73.26	77.35	-0.72	7.80
Growth Income	71.41	75.69	-0.15	2.31
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	153.17	162.95	-0.46	1.86
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD Enquiries 0177 280 3700 Dealing 0800 282 443				
American Income	103.20	109.70	-0.70	3.51
Conv & Gilt	111.60	118.70	2.00	6.21
European Income	75.81	80.65†	-0.67	3.22
Extra Income	163.10	174.20†	-0.80	4.98
-do- Accum	206.10	219.30	-0.70	4.98
Far East	383.70	408.10†	+4.10	0.31
-do- Accum	392.30	417.30	+4.20	0.31
Global Income	27.09	28.61	-0.25	4.81
High Income	124.70	132.70†	-1.80	4.11
-do- Accum	154.10	164.00	-2.70	4.11
International	196.50	209.00†	-3.20	0.84
-do- Accum	203.30	216.20	+3.30	0.84
Pref & Fixed Int	42.81	45.54†	-0.03	7.12
Recovery	75.70	80.54	+0.50	2.71
Special Sits	120.20	127.80	-0.50	1.68
-do- Accum	130.90	139.30	-0.50	1.68
Technology	616.70	657.80	-30.70	
UK Blue Chip	76.25	81.11	-0.68	3.13
-do- Accum	87.02	92.57	+1.07	3.19

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
PROVIDENT MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 588 3963				
Equity Gth	213.30	227.60	+1.60	1.35
European Gth	112.00	118.70	+2.00	0.97
Income & Gth #	145.30	154.60	-0.29	3.31
Japan Gth	110.20	117.20	-0.40	
Nth Amer Gth	176.10	187.30	+5.20	0.09
Overseas Gth	105.60	112.30	+1.00	0.29
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0181 478 3377 Client Enq 0171 911 4490				
Managed Tst	40.18	41.63	+0.75	1.80
Cash Hseld Inc	101.81	102.31	+0.07	5.58
Cash Hseld Acc	114.62	115.18	-0.08	5.58
Dist Trust Inc	99.79	103.40†	-0.05	6.46
Dist Trust Acc	108.63	111.94†	-0.05	6.48
Global Growth	94.84	100.89	-2.98	1.48
Equity Inc	85.80	91.27	-0.78	3.06
Equity	788.47	838.79†	+5.16	2.26
European	224.73	239.09	-4.91	0.76
High Income	90.42	96.19†	+0.84	5.09
Intl Gth	197.58	210.19	+2.29	0.90
Intl Sm Co	84.30	89.36†	-0.02	0.49
Japanese	201.55	208.85†	-1.92	
Nth Amer	201.32	208.62	-3.17	1.18
Pacific Mkts	107.91	111.82	-0.15	0.29
Premier Inc	48.18	50.14†	-0.42	6.67
Sm Cos	99.31	105.32	-0.49	1.45
Spec Sits	116.95	124.30	-0.61	2.60
UK Growth	133.00	141.48	-0.85	2.18
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD 01892 510 033				
British Life	317.70	336.90†	-4.20	3.12
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT Dealers 0171 623 1000				
FA America (Acc)	589.35	637.29	+13.96	0.61
FA America (Acc)	702.95	745.31	-18.32	0.61
FA UK Equity Inc	165.49	176.70†	-1.58	3.62
FA Japan	231.29	243.25	+2.30	
FA Major UK Cos	103.83	110.69	+1.16	2.23
FA Smlr UK Cos	326.12	355.02	-0.29	1.23
FA European	351.56	373.93	+3.19	0.62
FA Asian Smlr Cos	54.10	57.94	+1.24	0.01
FA Asia	49.19	53.03		0.01
FA Jap Smlr Cos	40.81	43.64	-0.07	
RAM Personal Pension				
UK Major Cos	107.60	113.26	-1.24	
UK Smlr Cos	95.42	100.43	+0.25	
UK Income	105.91	111.37	-2.01	
America	120.72	127.06	-2.83	
Japanese	51.72	54.44	-0.53	
European	113.41	119.37	+1.06	
Gilt	94.04	98.98	-1.27	
Deposit	86.70	91.26	-0.10	
Managed	106.00	111.57	+1.14	
RAM FSAVC Scheme				
UK Major Cos	104.66	110.16	+1.21	
UK Smaller Cos	93.08	97.97	+0.23	
UK Income	103.12	108.54	-1.97	
America	117.36	123.53	-2.74	
Japanese	50.28	52.92	-0.52	
European	110.37	116.17	+1.04	
Gilt	92.17	97.01	+0.75	
Deposit	82.78	87.13	-0.10	
Managed	99.16	104.37	+1.12	
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD Prices 01733 282 828 Gen Enq 01733 390 000				
United States	97.53	104.00	+2.30	
Pacific Basin	73.27	78.84	-0.36	
High Inc Dist	142.76	152.50	-0.80	4.30
Rvl Life Ic Dbn	59.95	63.51	-0.43	2.04
Rvl Life Intl Gwth	70.28	75.05	-0.70	
Rvl Life Intl Sec	65.31	69.47	-0.52	
UK Emerging Cos	137.60	148.70	-0.90	1.04
UK Index Trckg	176.83	188.30†	-3.70	3.17
European	144.00	154.50†	+1.00	
Managed	160.50	172.50	+1.00	0.69
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01206 764 400				
American Growth	164.10	174.50	+3.20	1.87
European Growth	119.40	126.60	-0.30	2.47
Far East Growth	133.82	142.00	-1.70	2.07
Japan Growth	122.69	130.50†	-1.30	
General Gth	220.20	236.30†	-0.90	1.15
UK Growth	85.81	91.28		2.19
Union General	251.90	267.60†	-0.60	1.25
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD 0141 307 6600				
Far East Inc	157.29	166.30	-0.40	0.44
Gr Euro Prog Inc	351.20	371.60	+5.40	0.28
-do- Accum	545.90	577.70	+8.40	0.28
Greater Inc	141.20	149.40	-1.10	0.30
-do- Accum	144.03	152.70	-1.20	0.30
International Inc	351.90	383.00	-4.00	0.43
-do- Accum	498.90	527.90	+5.40	0.43
Nth Am Inc	359.30	380.20	-7.20	0.27
UK Gen Prog Inc	235.60	249.30	-2.00	1.26
-do- Accum	265.10	280.50	+2.20	1.26
UK High Inc Inc	138.50	146.70	-1.00	3.62
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD 0171 330 0572				
American Gwth	74.70	79.47†	-2.40	
Asian Gwth	109.54	116.85	-0.82	0.75
European Gwth	75.26	81.12	-1.13	1.00
Global Bd	60.48	63.95†	+0.73	5.00
Global Eq	62.23	66.20	-1.82	0.50
Japan Sm Cos	55.12	58.64	-0.20	
UK Gwth	74.11	78.83	-2.19	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP 01708 766 966				
Amer Inc & Gwth #	33.12	35.31†	-1.94	3.48
Amer Smlr Cos	133.50	142.10	-3.80	
Asian Smaller Cos	41.63	44.34	-0.10	
Capital Portfolio	124.60	133.10	-0.80	1.81
Cash	130.60	130.00	+0.10	6.03
China Dragon	59.14	62.91†	+0.09	1.49
Commodity	122.30	130.10	-3.70	
Eastern Discovery	98.79	105.10	-0.50	
Emerging Mkts	36.47	38.80	-0.63	
Energy Inds	128.50	136.70	-3.20	0.15
European Gwth	197.60	210.20†	+0.10	0.12
Euro Inc & Gwth #	61.65	65.65	-0.10	1.94
Euro Smlr Cos	58.56	62.72	-0.66	0.06
Extra Income #	53.72	55.53†	+0.04	5.63
Financial Secs	243.70	259.30	-5.80	1.29
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc #	48.60	51.32	+0.54	8.78
Gold & Exploration	79.01	84.05	+2.28	
High Return #	239.50	254.50	+1.40	3.91
High Yield #	239.20	254.50†	-1.20	3.62
Income #	124.00	131.90	-0.60	4.26
Intl Bond	168.90	178.30	+0.50	5.54
ITU	217.49	231.30†	-3.90	1.05
Japan Growth	162.09	172.50	+1.50	
Japan Smaller	167.30	178.00	+0.20	
Korea	67.62	71.30†	-1.10	
Netherland	57.49	61.16	+0.10	0.80
Scotbits	365.30	388.50	+8.20	1.05
Scotshares #	319.90	340.30	-2.10	2.20
Scotyields #	254.80	271.10	+2.10	3.26
Select Intl	143.20	152.30†	-2.50	0.16
Smaller Cos Inc #	250.80	266.80†	-3.70	3.50
SE Asia	49.73	52.96	-0.57	0.23
Special Situation	140.30	149.30	+0.90	1.93
UK Equity #	267.00	284.00	-1.80	2.45
UK Growth	71.62	76.19	+0.31	1.83
UK & Overseas	177.60	188.90	+1.20	1.27
UK Smlr Cos Gwth	52.53	55.88	-0.55	1.49
US Growth	176.40	187.70	+5.00	0.14
Univ Growth	143.00	153.10	+2.00	0.41
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD Cint 0800 526 535 Bmr 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	290.35	307.80†	+6.40	1.03
-do- Accum	319.43	338.67†	+8.64	1.03
European Gwth	81.59	86.59	+2.05	0.90
Euro Smlr Cos	89.33	95.22	+1.37	0.42
Far Eastern Gth	98.95	105.44	+0.28	
-do- Accum	100.64	107.35	+0.29	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	51.49	54.30	+0.94	7.61
Global Bond #	52.26	54.02	+0.08	6.95
-do- Accum #	58.80	60.77	+0.09	6.95
Global Emer Mkts	50.09	53.42†	-0.50	
-do- Accum	50.13	53.47†	-0.50	
Income #	370.31	394.59	+2.92	5.14
-do- Accum #	£12.04	£12.84	+9.67	5.14
Japan Smlr Cos	421.28	449.36	-4.05	
-do- Accum	422.12	450.26	-4.06	
Japan Enterprise	66.69	71.13†	+0.51	
Pacific Gwth	134.63	143.60	-0.71	0.51
-do- Accum	138.98	148.24	-0.73	0.51
Portfolio	85.90	91.62	+0.41	2.03
-do- Accum	93.92	100.18	+0.45	2.03
Seoul	51.50	54.93	-0.73	
-do- Accum	51.50	54.93	-0.73	
Smaller Cos	245.51	261.87	-0.46	1.21
Tokyo	116.86	124.75	+1.12	
-do- Accum	118.14	126.01	-1.14	
UK Enterprise	296.10	315.83	+3.51	2.13
-do- Accum	357.82	381.67	+4.25	2.13
UK Equity	263.39	280.84	+1.30	2.64
-do- Accum	518.53	553.10	+2.57	2.64
US Smlr Cos	197.03	210.16†	+6.81	
-do- Accum	197.03	210.16†	+6.81	
Institutional Funds				
European	257.40	287.34	+4.47	1.38
-do- Accum	287.96	293.06	-5.00	1.38
Euro Smlr Cos	30.80	32.08	-0.12	1.58
-do- Accum	32.73	34.09	-0.12	1.58
Global Equity Inc	81.60	85.00†	+1.30	1.15
Japan Smlr Cos	34.60	38.13	-0.37	0.16
-do- Accum	34.91	38.44	-0.33	0.16
Mngd Balanced	203.22	211.68†	0.03	2.91
-do- Accum	233.77	243.45†	-1.74	2.91
Overseas Equity	199.50	207.81	+1.64	1.15
-do- Accum	207.26	215.89	+1.70	1.15
Oseas Smlr Cos	129.33	133.57	-0.54	1.01
-do- Accum	134.43	140.02	+0.56	1.01
Pacific	248.84	256.91†	-1.89	1.44
-do- Accum	272.48	283.45†	-1.87	1.44
Recovery	£19.84	£20.67	+0.70	3.12
-do- Accum	£21.32	£22.21	-0.75	3.12
UK Index	169.56	176.62	+1.33	3.42
-do- Accum	209.31	218.03	+1.64	3.42
UK Small Cos	121.96	127.04	-0.68	2.76
-do- Accum	132.33	137.84	-0.72	2.76
US Smlr Cos	55.70	58.02†	-1.92	0.45
-do- Accum	58.98	59.35†	-1.97	0.45
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD 0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	54.82	57.97	+0.19	2.78
Equity Trust	67.36	71.76	-0.11	3.04
Equity Strategy	80.04	84.64	-0.12	1.36
European Opps	95.54	101.03	-0.51	0.55
UK Smaller Cos	71.79	75.92	-0.10	1.38
Museum Inc	98.20	101.77	+0.09	6.74
Japanese	72.96	77.16	+1.32	
Asia Pacific	122.71	129.77	-0.93	1.49
American	116.75	123.46	+3.37	0.70
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD 0800 454 422				
Cash	31.96	31.96	-0.02	6.234
UK General Inc	56.30	60.06	+0.50	1.61
-do- Accum	73.98	78.93	-0.66	1.61
Intl Income	274.00	292.30†	-3.40	1.61
-do- Accum	477.60	509.40†	-7.10	1.61
European	86.97	92.12	-1.64	1.86
Japan	63.76	67.58	-0.52	0.31
American	80.78	85.58	-2.33	1.07
Far East	84.94	90.60	-0.95	1.36
Ethical Inc	32.76	35.03	-0.12	2.72
UK Blue Chip Inc	36.64	39.16	-0.41	3.91
High Inc Inc	37.75	40.35	-0.16	3.64
UK Global Inc	43.03	46.00	+0.61	1.76
Wwide Tnd	74.14	79.27†	+1.81	1.32
Europa 2000 Tncr	58.24	61.99	-0.73	1.45
Technology	136.91	145.74†	+4.39	1.00
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	421.90	450.30	-1.50	2.81
American	305.40	324.10	+8.40	0.51
Pacific	379.00	405.30	-3.30	0.49
European	580.70	621.10	-1.00	1.32
Worldwide	91.44	97.80	+0.49	0.69
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD 0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	295.00	313.95	-1.40	2.58
-do- Accum	377.20	401.30	-1.50	2.58
UK Sir Co Eq Inc	225.70	241.20	-1.10	1.90
-do- Accum	275.70	295.80	-1.40	1.95
Select Grwth Inc	76.85	82.20	-0.50	1.98
Income Plus Inc	78.25	83.04	-0.61	3.51
European Inc	311.80	331.20†	-9.23	1.32
-do- Accum	421.00	447.50†	-10.40	1.32
Far Eastern Inc	172.30	183.35†	-0.70	0.52
-do- Accum	196.10	210.80†	-1.36	0.52
Japanese Inc	58.00	61.71†	+0.58	
Nth American Inc	280.80	298.40†	+11.70	0.62
-do- Accum	310.10	329.90†	+12.20	0.62

Fund	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	211.50	225.00	+3.60	0.62
Wwide Venture Inc	83.75	89.08	+1.82	0.79
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT 0131 655 3724				
Equity Inc	397.10	422.50	+0.50	2.56
-do- Accum	596.50	636.10	-0.70	2.56
UK High Inc	192.30	205.10	-0.50	3.51
-do- Accum	288.30	307.40	+0.70	3.51
Europe Inc	412.10	439.60	-4.80	0.40
Nth Amer Inc	260.60	277.90	+10.50	
Global Inc	230.80	246.10	+1.40	0.28
Global Acc	245.60	265.10	+1.50	0.26
UK Spec Sits Inc	110.40	117.70	-0.20	3.08
South East Asia	220.10	234.70	-2.00	
Cash Trust Inc	101.90	101.90	+0.10	5.39
UK Smir Cos Inc	111.70	119.30	-1.20	2.08
-do- Accum	115.60	123.30	-1.30	2.08
Intl Bond Inc	96.45	102.40	+0.90	5.62
SEMPER EADEM FUND MGMT LTD Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 261 010				
Sector Recovery	147.60	155.00	+1.00	4.30
SHARP (ALBERT E) Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 261 010				
European	139.60	145.80	+2.40	0.93
Nth American	123.50	130.00	+2.80	0.32
Intl Bond & Conv	124.80	131.40†	-2.70	6.78
Pooled Pension (E)	207.10	222.70†	-1.00	2.11
Smaller Cos	92.06	96.90†	-0.02	1.18
UK General	145.90	153.60†	-0.30	2.03
Far Eastern	94.58	99.56†	+1.00	
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD 0171 626 6226				
Amer Gth Fund ‡	118.10		+3.22	
Asian ‡	60.96		+1.31	
European ‡	140.61		+2.50	6.29
Global Bond ‡	93.62		-0.92	8.43
Investment Trust ‡	102.58		-1.07	2.09
Preferred Income ‡	99.86		-0.36	6.01
Samurai ‡	53.97	...	+1.71	
Sterling Reserve ‡	100.64		-0.48	5.9
UK Growth ‡	104.60		-0.06	2.38
Tel Pan ‡	96.63		-0.85	
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	102.13		-1.77	2.91
UK Equity Inc ‡	106.15		+3.64	5.71
Glob Gwth PEP	68.74	73.12	+1.06	1.29
Pref Inc PEP #	99.25	105.20	-1.50	5.05
Inv Trust PEP	51.05	54.30	+0.66	
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS 0171 637 5377				
American	371.30	393.50	-3.30	
Canadian	67.75	71.69	-2.57	0.61
Capital	133.30	142.60		1.93
Cash	100.61	100.61	-0.09	6.01
European	143.80	152.10	-0.19	0.84
Far Eastern	150.30	159.10	-3.70	
Growth	145.70	154.30	-0.60	1.61
Income	134.40	142.20	-0.40	5.06
Magnum	143.60	153.70	-0.10	1.82
Smlr Secs	439.00	464.50†		0.74
Thoroughbred	166.40	178.30†	-0.90	1.52
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD 01202 298 422				
Cntrid Primace	54.25	58.02	-0.28	7.60
Ethical	66.57	71.58	-0.29	0.50
European Grwth	75.86	80.70	-2.25	1.60
Income	56.40	60.64†	-0.97	4.30
Intl Growth	101.60	108.30	+2.80	0.80
Managed	85.66	91.38	+1.33	2.30
UK Growth	68.42	73.56	+0.13	1.51
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS 0800 393 777				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	42.57	43.09	+0.08	2.25
Global Advtg Acc	45.24	46.38	+0.08	2.25
Income Advtg Inc	33.64	34.01	-0.07	5.54
Income Advtg Acc	38.17	38.37	-0.08	5.54
UK Equity Gth Acc	79.00	83.75	-0.59	0.88
Premier Inc Inc	46.94	51.51	+0.67	7.65
Premier Inc Acc	48.94	51.51	-0.67	7.65
Managed Acc	55.87	59.23	-0.09	1.96
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	38.47	40.79†	-0.04	3.93
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	49.27	52.23	+0.06	3.88
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	69.04	73.36	+0.08	2.95
UK Equity Gen Inc	50.40	53.55†	+0.06	2.95
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	31.23	33.03†	+0.39	6.79
Oseas Lrg Co Acc	332.60	360.90	+0.90	1.63
Nth American Acc	52.30	55.57	+1.07	0.11
Pacific Basin	42.67	45.34	-29.52	1.02
European Acc	56.02	59.53	-0.45	0.72
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD 0171 344 7000				
Global $ (US$)	4.077	4.322	-0.03	1.86
US Eqts (US$)	2.839	3.013	-0.01	1.06
Far East Eqts (yen)	245.20	263.70	-1.20	
FT Europe	138.66	147.20	-0.10	1.32
FT N Amer (US$)	2.183	2.341	+0.02	0.47
FT Japan (yen)	203.50	218.20	-4.40	
FT Asia Exjap (US$)	2.562	2.723	-0.01	0.90
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0131 226 3271				
American	434.60	461.50	-14.90	
British #	1145.80	1212.30	-1.30	3.11
Emgng Mkts	132.00	140.70	-0.80	0.46
European	578.20	616.10†	+1.30	0.22
Japan	134.40	142.80	-3.10	
New Pacific	388.90	414.20	+0.30	1.58
-do- Accum	414.60	441.50	+0.30	1.58
Inv Trust Acc	275.20	291.70	+5.20	0.82
Mngd Equity	185.20	195.90	+0.40	1.65
Mngd Cash	95.79	95.79	+0.09	6.03
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 680 389				
Equity	937.00	991.40	-6.90	2.60
North America	155.90	166.70	-5.50	
Far East	147.80	158.10	+0.50	0.21
Wwide Bond	59.70	63.35†	+0.13	5.10
European	111.50	119.30†	+2.80	1.47
Equity Income #	98.55	105.40	+0.80	5.14
Portfolio	94.34	100.90	+1.23	2.06
UK Leading Cos	67.69	72.20	+0.44	2.96
Broker Trusts				
Intl Equity	68.95	73.74	-0.52	
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD 0800 525 725				
Assures UT	21.90	23.30†	-0.10	3.92
European	42.68	45.41†	+1.14	0.83
High Income	33.68	35.84†	+0.05	4.13
Japan	33.99	38.16†	-0.33	0.03
Managed Assets	132.19	141.38	+0.96	2.65
North American	36.83	39.19†	+0.96	0.68
Smir Co's Inc	31.20	33.20	-0.66	2.27
Smir Co's Acc	33.72	35.85†	-0.42	2.27
UK Growth Inc	59.36	63.15	-0.21	2.82
UK Growth Acc	65.21	69.38†	-0.23	2.82
UK Income	43.22	46.23	+0.13	3.28
Worldwide Grth	36.64	39.19†	+0.32	0.99
[illegible]				
Canadian Exmpt	61.86	63.78	+4.03	2.17
European Exmpt	86.36	91.10	+1.61	2.03
Pacific Exmpt	58.47	60.28†	+0.19	1.06
US Exmpt	86.63	89.31†	+2.07	1.82
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD Admin & Enq 0171 606 4044 Dlg 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	52.14	55.47†	-0.54	
Cap Protector Inc	42.33	45.03†	+0.15	2.80
UK Income Inc	54.35	57.82	+0.43	3.27
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	33.70	35.85†	+0.15	5.13
Mngd High Yld Inc	82.23	87.48†	-1.05	4.44
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	78.03	83.01†	-1.05	2.31
UK Smaller Cos	36.60	38.94†	-0.28	1.70
Pacific Erth Port	48.17	51.24	-0.73	0.68
TSB UNIT TRUSTS 01264 346 794				
American	256.95	271.90	+9.83	
-do- Accum	283.02	299.49	-10.62	
Brit Growth	105.72	111.88†	+0.57	2.06
-do- Accum	129.57	137.11†	+0.70	2.06
European	111.47	117.95	+1.76	
-do- Accum	118.64	125.54	+1.88	
Extra Income	197.71	209.22	-0.78	4.09
-do- Accum	348.41	368.69	-1.37	4.09
Smaller Cos	78.58	83.17	-0.36	1.05
-do- Accum	89.33	94.53	-0.41	1.05
General	314.86	333.19	+1.85	2.25
-do- Accum	659.66	698.05	-3.88	2.25
Premier Income	50.42	52.52†	+0.45	6.96
-do- Accum	120.10	125.10†	-1.07	6.96
Income	347.99	368.24	-1.27	3.55
-do- Accum	776.70	821.91	-2.84	3.55
Pacific	402.92	426.37	+0.42	
-do- Accum	423.37	448.01	-0.44	
International	576.51	610.06†	+9.29	
-do- Accum	759.57	803.78†	+12.38	
Nat Resources	162.87	172.35†	-3.04	
Select Opps	119.86	126.84†	-1.05	1.53
-do- Accum	155.02	164.04†	-1.36	1.53
Environmental Inv	68.11	72.07	-0.05	1.39
Selector	66.62	70.71†	+0.32	1.77
-do- Accum	76.73	81.35†	+0.36	1.77
High Income	66.29	70.15	+0.41	4.45
-do- Accum	86.43	91.46	+0.53	4.45
Intl Income	61.45	65.03†	+0.51	5.12
-do- Accum	78.69	83.27†	+0.65	5.12
Selector Income	62.87	66.53†	-0.39	4.35
-do- Accum	76.98	81.35†	+0.47	4.35
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED 0161 867 1018				
British	359.24	378.15	+0.48	2.88
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	218.99	234.21	+2.63	2.04
Glob Balncd Inc	183.67	196.43†	-3.56	3.57
Value Tst Inc	128.59	137.53	-0.72	2.14
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD 0171 246 3000 Dealing 0171 246 3001				
Dresdner Eur Bd	43.79	45.56	-0.16	0.50
European Growth	291.98	305.71	-6.66	0.40
Exempt	582.18	608.34†	+3.68	2.70
Global Em Mkts	77.29	80.93†	-1.10	0.40
Japan Tst	79.59	83.34	-1.45	0.60
Little Dragons	89.33	93.53	-0.66	
Nth Amer Gwth	263.97	276.40	+7.60	0.50
Oriental Income #	44.85	46.96	-0.11	2.40
Preference	125.84	131.76	-0.89	6.90
Tiger	275.95	288.56	-1.44	
UK Blue Chip	68.56	71.79	+0.58	1.80
UK Growth	565.38	592.02†	-4.34	2.10
UK High Yield #	106.59	111.61†	-0.39	4.50
UK Mid-Cap	270.35	283.71†	+1.34	2.20
UK Smlr Cos	114.03	119.40	-0.95	1.00
UK Smlr Cos Div #	86.07	90.12	-1.27	5.40
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD 01277 690 336				
UK Equity Income	102.28	108.67	-0.05	3.54
UK Equity Growth	91.81	97.46	-0.07	2.83
European	71.84	76.43†	-1.30	1.47
Nth American	77.92	82.79†	+2.20	0.62
Far Eastern	71.13	75.67	-1.45	0.95
Money	69.08	69.08	-0.05	5.44
Fixed Interest	75.68	80.72	+0.71	5.97
Index Linked Gilt	69.57	74.01	+0.48	1.36
VIRGIN DIRECT PFE LTD 0345 959595				
Income Trust	101.88	101.88	+0.95	7.27
UK Index Tracking	116.03	116.03†	+0.12	2.86
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0131 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	24.30	25.57	-0.26	
Pacific Basin	43.92	46.23	-0.36	
Global Bond (US$)	0.9128	0.9608	[illegible]	
Equity Share	42.18	44.39	-0.22	
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD 0171 623 3444				
[illegible]	97.21	98.78†	-0.82	2.90
Short Dtd Gilt	119.30	120.80	+0.70	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7644	0.7745	+0.00	
Gilt Income	51.59	53.68	-0.74	7.00
Gilt Growth	75.02	78.07	+1.58	
Sterling Bond	49.59	50.89	-0.45	7.25
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 298 4000				
Intl Man	50.53	53.73	+1.04	1.59
UK Smlr	87.33	92.89	+0.47	2.63

Source: Fintel

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. (E) Exit Charge.

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Crawley in fine shape to press for Test place

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN EAST LONDON

OUTWARDLY, John Crawley has changed so much that, with his cropped hair, he could pass for a warder in *Jailhouse Rock*. Inwardly he has changed, too. The young man who set out on a Test career 16 months ago has taken longer to adjust than he, or others, imagined. Now that he is showing signs of doing so, will there be a Test place for him?

Crawley is "the man in possession", having finished the summer batting at No 3 against West Indies. However, Raymond Illingworth has signalled a clear wish for Mark Ramprakash to bat there this winter, against South Africa. Should Ramprakash be selected, the best Crawley can hope for is a place at No 6, ahead of Robin Smith.

The West Indies board is threatening to punish several Test players after the reports by the captain, manager and coach accused them of causing disruption during the tour of England this year. The players, who have not been named, have been ordered to answer the charges by November 15 or face punishment.

Yesterday, as overnight rain washed out the second day of England's four-day match against Border, Crawley had good reason to curse. He is 87 not out and wants to turn it into something big, to remind Illingworth which players are in the best form.

With 85 against an Invitation XI behind him, and runs here, Crawley is well ahead of Smith if form counts for anything, but Michael Atherton admires Smith's big-match temperament and there is every likelihood that Smith will get another chance to play himself into form against a South African A side at Kimberley next week.

Since he returned from Australia earlier this year, having achieved only a partial success there last winter, Crawley has attempted to play straighter. He is also toning down something of his natural expansiveness, to the point where it seems he is giving an impersonation of somebody "barting responsibly".

He makes no bones about this adjustment of style. "I don't want to get out. I am trying to accumulate runs without making mistakes and in four-day cricket, particularly when you open or bat first wicket down, you can bat for a longer period of time. You can get a good ball early on, but if you get in, then being out for 60 or 70 is not good enough."

John Edrich, the England batting coach, has assisted him. "My technique is similar to last season but I have worked with Edrich on a few things, notably playing with softer hands in defence and playing straighter through mid-on. He tells everybody to set their sights on a hundred, not to get out for 40s."

Keen as he is to make amends for his Test failures, Crawley is not expecting any favours from Atherton, the man he followed to Manchester Grammar School, Cambridge and Lancashire. "There are players here with much better Test records than I," he said.

"I did not play especially well during the summer but I learnt a lot and I hope I am a better player for it. Robin is a fine player at Test level and is going through a bad run, as anybody can. He is probably the best player of fast bowling in the team so I would not have thought that was an issue."

Crawley's well-documented efforts to reshape his body in the past six months have helped his running between the wickets and in the field. Now he is down to a shade over 13 stone, in trim, and looking forward to reshaping his international career.

GRAHAM MORRIS



Crawley, on his way to 87 not out against Border, is out to impress again today

Hussain plays vital innings

NASSER HUSSAIN, the captain, played a delightful innings of 64 as the England A side gained their second successive victory yesterday, beating a Pakistan Cricket Board XI by seven runs at Thatta in a match reduced to 45 overs a side.

After England A had been put in, Jason Pooley was out in the fourth over but the Yorkshire opener, Andrew McGrath, helped Hussain repair the damage with a second-wicket stand of 71. Hussain's innings was streets ahead of any other in terms of class, although Jason Gallian scored 28 rapid runs to boost the total.

The Board XI passed 100 with only three wickets down and, with 13 runs required off the last two overs, were still in with a chance until Kabir Khan lost patience and swung vainly at Ed Giddins.

ENGLAND A XI

A J McGrath c Kabir b Anwar	34
J C Pooley c Ramzan b Ather	1
*N Hussain c Ijaz b Zafar	64
D P Ostler run out	10
R C Irani b Ather	0
J E R Gallian c Ijaz b Zafar	28
†K J Piper c Qadir b Kabir	11
D W Headley b Kabir	9
R D Stemp b Kabir	0
A M Smith not out	1
E S H Giddins b Kabir	0
Extras (lb 4, w 4, nb 2)	10
Total (44.3 overs)	168

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-77, 3-101, 4-103, 5-135, 6-148, 7-163, 8-163, 9-168

BOWLING: Kabir 7.3-2-20-4, Ather 9-2-22-2, Zafar 9-0-40-2, Anwar 9-0-34-1, Ramzan 4-0-18-0, Ijaz 6-0-30-0

PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD XI

Mohammad Ramzan run out	34
Ghulam Ali c McGrath b Smith	12
Ijaz Ahmed Jnr c McGrath b Giddins	26
Mahmood Hamid c Ostler b Headley	30
Saad Wasim lbw b Irani	3
Zafar Iqbal run out	15
Sajid Asghar c Piper b Stemp	4
Ather Laeed c Piper b Stemp	4
Javed Qadeer run out	7
Kabir Khan c Irani b Giddins	14
Anwar Ali not out	6
Extras (lb 3, w 6, nb 7)	16
Total (49.4 overs)	181

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-58, 3-95, 4-101, 5-123, 6-123, 7-132, 8-132, 9-152

BOWLING: Giddins 8-1-20-2, Headley 9-2-29-1, Gallian 4-0-23-0, Smith 6 4-0-30-1, Irani 7-1-21-1, Stemp 9-2-35-2

☐ Salim Malik, the former Pakistan captain, was dismissed for seven against South Australia in his first innings since his eight-month exile from the game following bribery accusations.

Sign right here O. J. and have a nice day



SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

The price of O. J. Simpson memorabilia continues to go through the roof and beyond, most particularly if the trade involves items that the great man has actually signed himself. It seems that the great star of American football is more famous than ever before. How can this be? Well, football fans have long memories, and there is no doubt in my mind that these born-again O. J. fans simply wish to celebrate a great career. Surely the high prices cannot possibly have any connection with any unfortunate events that may have transpired over the past 15 months. Besides, would any one in the United States truly wish to cash in on a such a distasteful thing as a murder trial?

O. J. is planning a massive signing session at Atlantic City, the American epicentre of restraint, good taste and wholesomeness. "I want to keep this a sports show, not a 'Hey, I'm out of jail show'," said Mike Gilbert, O. J.'s agent and guardian of the higher morality. He said that Simpson's contract for the show allows him not to sign anything he does not like — and so he won't be signing pictures of the famous slow-motion car-chase along the Los Angeles freeway system, the chase that paralysed America and filled every television channel for hours.

However, the promoter of the signing session, Mike Bertolini, has said that O. J. *will* sign photographs of both courtroom scenes and the chase — and that they will be available by mail order.

"That absolutely will not happen," Gilbert said. "O. J. will not sign it." Admittedly, O. J. has already signed one or two photos from the courtroom. Well, about 1,000 of them, actually. But he now regrets it. Well, we all do things we regret from time to time, don't we, O. J? "There's no going back." Gilbert wisely says. "But we're not going to do any more of those."

In line with the good taste ambience of the entire business, Al "A. C." Cowlings will not, after all, appear at the signing session. It was Al that drove the Bronco during the infamous chase.

Background info on Bertolini: pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit tax fraud after baseball memorabilia event in 1989. Also pleaded guilty to assaulting one of his partners in that venture fours year on. The weapon, appropriately enough, was a baseball bat.

Grande Illusion

Just because all these continentals keep beating British football teams, it doesn't mean they are better. Of course not. They just *look* better. Opinions of some jingoistic English footballer? *Pas du tout*. Opinions of Guy Roux, for 30 years manager of Auxerre, a footballing god in France and one time mentor of Eric Cantona to boot. "French players aren't better than English players — they give the illusion of being better," he said, adding: "English players show admirable discipline. Frankly, I am jealous of that. They are disciplined at every level. They are Anglo-Saxon. We are not yet at the level of the English championship."

Hazardous

Can you copyright a hole? That is the vexed legal question in the United States. In Houston, Texas, someone has come up with the ingenious idea of making a golf course that comprises nothing but replicas of famous holes from other courses. For just 50 bucks, you play 18 charismatic, puzzling and otherwise notorious holes from the entire puzzling and footling world of golf. You can, for example, play the three holes of the renowned Amen Corner from Augusta. But the proprietors of the Tour 18 golf course must now face trial for violation of copyright. Their defence is that golf design cannot be protected by law. A hole in the ground is hole in the ground. Old American joke: what is black and brown and looks good on a lawyer? A doberman.



Soccer school

They still love Bruce in Zimbabwe. Bruce Grobbelaar, who appears in court next month on charges of fixing football matches, has plans to open a football academy for young players in Zimbabwe, where his career began. He is still the Zimbabwe goalie, not to mention living national treasure.

Buttoned up

Now that rugby union has ditched all that amateur nonsense, the gimlet-eyed marketing people are really on the ball. No opportunity for making a quick quid escapes their attention. An advertisement in a recent Wasps programme offers The Rob Andrew Shirt: "The black Wasps rugby jersey specially commissioned with the number 10 on the back and Rob's signature embossed in gold on the sleeve."

It comes in a special presentation box, in a limited (well, fairly limited) edition of just, 300. Adult sizes £59.95; children's sizes a give-away at £39.95. Small problem: Andrew has, of course, been kicked out for poaching his team-mates on behalf of his new club, Newcastle. Moral: some people are better at seizing commercial opportunities than others.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

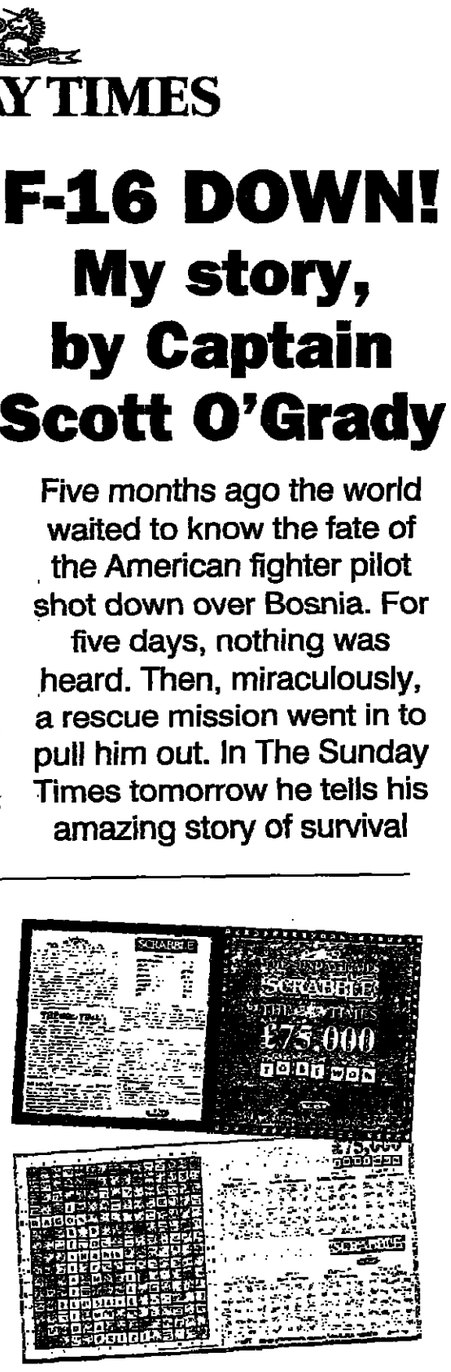


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My story, by Captain Scott O'Grady

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Leaders of pack fear the threat to their status

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

RUGBY union is now reaching a stage of paranoia in the vacuum that has existed since the adoption of an open game. Leading clubs look over their shoulders, fearful of where the next threat to their supremacy may come, distrustful of the motives of their governing body, only gradually perceiving the possibilities of a professional future.

Wealthy Newcastle are not the only ogre; Cardiff are seen as the main manipulators in Wales, while there is aggressive talk from Harlequins and their ability to enter the transfer market — as witness the attempted seduction of Martin Bayfield from Northampton this week. Exasperated Bath know that, without entering some kind of contractual arrangement, the talent that exists in their second team will not remain if clubs with financial muscle come calling.

Players may believe this situation to be advantageous, but the wiser heads among them will reserve their options until they can identify clearly the long-term future rather than short-term profit. That they have formed their own professional organisation, the Rugby Union Players' Association, will be good for them and for their employers — the clubs. Indeed England First Division Clubs Ltd will announce on Monday their proposals for the future well-being of the game — two days in advance of the Rugby Football Union.

The international authorities have stressed, of course, that the requirements of national bodies take pride of place and the exercise of that power by Ireland this weekend has irritated English clubs with Irishmen on their books. Not that this particular club-versus-country argument is a product of the new era — indeed it is almost as old as squad weekends.

Be that as it may, the Courage Clubs Championship goes ahead this weekend without those players required for Irish training, with one exception. Niall Malone, of Leicester, has successfully pleaded his case for release from the duties which take away such players as Jim Staples (Harlequins), Nick Popplewell (Wasps), Simon Geoghegan (Bath) and the London Irish duo, Gary Halpin and Conor O'Shea.

Malone, Ireland's third-choice stand-off half, argued that he was better off playing a demanding league game against Harlequins and establishing his credentials for international rugby. Leicester, without the injured Jez Harris and deprived of Dean Richards, their captain, with a strained calf muscle, are relieved at his success. They may yet lose Neil Back if the flanker does not recover from flu.

Leicester and Bristol are the only clubs to retain lettering as a form of identification but, in committee this week, Leicester decided to adopt numbers, save on special occasions. Their meeting with Harlequins, themselves without David Pears, will confirm who is best suited to pursue Bath at the top of the table. Four Bath players, the restored England full back, Jonathan Callard, among them, are reported to have been approached by Gloucester, and Phil de Glanville, the captain, said: "We have got to look after players and we need a big cash injection from somewhere."

They may take out their displeasure on Sale, one of the three sides to beat them last season and without Chris Saverimutto, their Irish squad scrum half, for the first time this season. Charlie Vyvyan plays in Sale's back row for the first time since September.

Bayfield, the England lock now on sabbatical from the police force the better to perform in a professional sport, plays at Franklins Gardens when Northampton expect to dispose of the only other unbeaten record in the second division, that of London Scottish. The Scots have dropped only one point and have conceded a meagre six tries this season: Northampton, though, have averaged eight a match, so something will have to give.

MARC ASPLAND



Bayfield, the Northampton and England lock forward, who turned down an offer to join Harlequins

Davies happy in back seat for Cardiff

By David Hands

THOSE who would wheel Jonathan Davies straight back into the Wales side for the five nations' championship in the new year will hope for ammunition for their argument when Davies plays his first game of rugby union since Christmas, 1988, tomorrow. That Davies deflects all such suggestions, and that it would hardly be the most forward-thinking move the Wales selectors could make, seems neither here nor there.

He will be happy to survive his first outing in Cardiff colours. He has worn the black of Neath and the red of Llanelli with distinction: now he takes to the blue-and-black at the Arms Park against Aberavon in the Heineken League, which had not been created when he left for rugby league.

"I'll take it game by game, see how this season goes, before I think about next season," Davies said. "I won't be the same player maybe I was when I left but I have learnt a lot of things along the way. Rugby is a lot more serious now, players don't smile as much as they used to; I'd like to do something about that."

The only position Davies has not played in the backs is scrum half but, against Aberavon, he will play full back, which will lend scope to his running skills while not requiring the instant decision-making that the crowded midfields of the modern era demand. "We haven't shaped a game, in the one training session he's had, to suit Jonathan," Alun Donovan, the Cardiff coach, said.

"He's talented enough to make his mark and I'm sure, ball in hand, he'll prove himself. He's been out of the game for six years and I don't know where his best position is. The angles he was running in training weren't what we are used to but, in that respect, he could bring another dimension to our game. Our players have to realise, though, that they are all responsible for how the game goes — if our forwards don't win much ball, then we won't see much of Jonathan anyway."

The club's decision to play him at full back, behind a back division including five internationals, even though Cardiff rest seven men required by Wales against Fiji a week later, means no place for Mike Rayer. "Mike is extremely disappointed," Donovan said. "You expect that from such a committed player. He wanted to be part of what has become such a big occasion."

Amid all the hullabaloo, Nigel Walker, the international wing, makes his comeback after a shoulder operation.

Players go without as Widnes fall on hard times

By Christopher Irvine

TIMES could not be more different at Widnes. As Jonathan Davies prepares for his Cardiff debut, the club which brought him into rugby league nearly seven years ago and was the scourge of Welsh rugby union is still counting the cost of its Eighties boom.

Doug Laughton, the Widnes manager, whose open cheque book was once the most feared in Wales, gathered his players this week to inform them that the club was not in a position to meet contract payments. Debt has been a recurring theme for several years now.

Widnes are awaiting £300,000 from the local authority, which is buying Naughton Park for redevelopment. Laughton is resisting other clubs' interest in John Devereux, whom he bought from Bridgend in 1989 shortly after luring Davies from Llanelli, but the financial pressure could make a move to Warrington inevitable.

"It's true we have had problems and I told the players the facts straight. It wasn't a pleasant task and it's the first time I've ever had to inform players they would not be receiving owed monies," Laughton said. "But I don't want to sell John and will fight any move for him to go."

Adrian Hadley, another former international union player linked with a return to Wales, has attacked Widnes for transfer-listing him at £35,000. He believes he is a free agent because the club has failed to meet his payments. "As far as I'm concerned, the contract is no longer valid," he said.

Hadley, 32, who originally joined Salford from Cardiff in 1988 after 27 appearances for Wales, said he signed a new 18-month contract earlier this year on the understanding that Widnes would be competing in the Super League next spring, but the club was eventually squeezed out of the new top flight in the format's final draft.

Widnes are involved with Keighley and Salford in a three-horse race for the first division title.

Andy Platt returns after World Cup duties with England to the Widnes front row for the visit tomorrow to Rochdale, where they last lost 22 years ago.

Champion switches to duathlon in protest at drafting

By David Powell

SPENCER SMITH is taking his protest against drafting in triathlon one stage further than refusing to defend his world title in Cancun, Mexico, next weekend. Smith, a San Diego-based Briton, will contest instead the duathlon world championship at the same venue tomorrow when drafting will not be permitted.

Smith's appearance in the lesser of these two International Triathlon Union (ITU) championships is intended to highlight his disapproval of drafting, which allows riders to slipstream during the cycling stage, instead of keeping a prohibited distance. "It is really a protest. We are supporting non-drafting," Bill Smith, the triathlete's father, said.

While it may seem curious that the ITU permits drafting in one of its championships but not in another, the sport is still at the experimental stage, seeking to ensure that it produces the best form of racing possible by the time it enters the Olympic Games in the year 2000. The pro-drafting lobby argues that team tactics make the cycle section more exciting but Spencer Smith said: "Triathlon is an individual thing and it should be kept an individual thing."

There can be no argument that Smith's absence from the main event is a pity. He has been a world champion three years in succession, winning the junior title in 1992 and last year becoming the first man to defend successfully the senior crown. He is denying himself a shot at an unprecedented treble.

Bill Smith argues that drafting in triathlon is dangerous and that, because it lessens the chance of a strong cyclist breaking away, "all it is in effect is a run race." He denies that his son's boycott is sour grapes because he is strong on the bike and weaker than his arch rival and fellow Briton, Simon Lessing, on the run. Lessing, the world long-distance champion, is the favourite to succeed Smith next weekend.

Spencer Smith is no stranger to duathlon — run-bike-run — as he won the European title in 1992 and was third in the world championship in Dallas in 1993. "Taking gold tomorrow would add another world title to my collection," he said.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Arsenal v Manchester Utd
(2) Chelsea v Sheffield Wednesday
(3) Coventry v Tottenham
(4) Manchester City v Bolton
(5) Middlesbrough v Leeds
(6) Newcastle v Liverpool
(7) Nottingham Forest v Wimbledon P
(8) Southampton v QPR
(9) West Ham v Aston Villa

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	11	9	1	1	27	8	28
Man Utd	11	8	2	1	23	11	26
Liverpool	11	7	2	2	24	8	23
Arsenal	11	6	3	2	15	6	21
Nottm F	11	5	6	0	19	12	21
Middlsbro	11	6	3	2	11	6	21
A Villa	11	6	2	3	13	8	20
Leeds	11	6	2	3	17	13	20
Tottenham	11	4	4	3	16	14	16
Chelsea	11	4	3	4	11	14	15
Blackburn	11	4	2	5	16	15	14
West Ham	11	3	4	4	10	12	13
Shelf Wed	11	3	2	6	9	13	11
QPR	11	3	1	7	10	17	10
Wimbledon	11	3	1	7	15	25	10
Everton	11	2	3	6	12	16	9
Southampton	11	2	3	6	11	20	9
Bolton	11	2	2	7	12	22	8
Coventry	11	1	4	6	8	21	7
Man City	11	0	2	9	3	21	2

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

(10) Barnsley v Wolverhampton
(—) Birmingham v Millwall
(11) Crystal Palace v Reading
(12) Huddersfield v Norwich
(13) Ipswich v Grimsby
(14) Sheffield Utd v Portsmouth
(15) Stoke v Luton
(16) Tranmere v Derby
(17) Watford v Southend

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millwall	14	8	4	2	17	11	28
Birmingham	14	7	4	3	24	14	25
Leicester	14	7	4	3	24	18	25
West Brom	14	7	3	4	20	15	24
Sundrland	14	6	6	2	17	13	24
Tranmere	13	5	6	2	21	13	21
Norwich	14	5	6	3	19	15	21
Charlton	14	5	6	3	18	13	21
Oldham	14	5	5	4	19	15	20
Grimsby	14	5	5	4	14	15	20
Ipswich	14	5	4	5	24	21	19
Barnsley	14	5	4	5	21	27	19
Huddersfld	14	5	3	6	17	20	18
Derby	14	4	6	4	16	18	18
Southend	14	5	3	6	12	16	18
Wolvrhmptn	14	4	5	5	18	19	17
C Palace	13	4	5	4	16	17	17
Reading	14	3	6	5	18	22	15
Stoke	14	3	6	5	15	19	15
Watford	14	3	5	6	18	21	14
Portsmth	14	3	4	7	19	23	13
Luton	14	3	3	8	10	17	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	2	9	17	28	11
Port Vale	14	2	5	7	12	18	11

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton v Dorchester; Chelmsford v Gresley; Cheltenham v Cambridge City; Ilkeston v Gloucester; Merthyr v VS Rugby; Rushden and Diamonds v Stafford. Southern division: Ashford v Weston-super-Mare; Cinderford v Poole; Fisher 93 v Margate; Newport IoW v Forest Green; Waterlooville v Witney. Midland division: Kings Lynn v Buckingham Town; Moor Green v Paget R; Redditch v Rothwell; Sutton Coldfield v Bridgnorth.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Enfield v Bromley; Grays v St Albans; Hitchin v Boreham Wood; Sutton United v Dulwich; Yeading v Molesey; Yeovil v Worthing. First division: Barking v Marlow; Wokingham v Berkhamsted. Second division: Bedford Town v Hampton; Bracknell v Saffron Walden; Cheshunt v Collier Row; Dorking v Croydon; Egham v Edgware; H Hempstead v Witham; Metropolitan Police v Wivenhoe; Tilbury v Canvey Island; Ware v Hungerford. Third division: Aveley v Harefield; Epsom and Ewell v Horsham; Hertford v Cove; Hornchurch v Leighton; Kingsbury v Camberley; Northwood v Tring; Southall v Lewes; Wealdstone v East Thurrock; Windsor and Eton v Clapton; Wingate and Finchley v Flackwell Heath

Second division

(18) Brentford v Shrewsbury
(19) Bristol Rovers v Peterborough
(20) Burnley v Notts County
(21) Carlisle v Brighton
(22) Chesterfield v Bradford
(23) Hull v Wrexham
(24) Oxford Utd v Bristol City
(25) Rotherham v Crewe
(26) Swansea v Wycombe
(27) Swindon v Blackpool
(28) Walsall v Bournemouth
(29) York v Stockport

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	15	11	3	1	31	11	36
Crewe	14	9	3	2	28	14	30
Notts County	15	8	4	3	22	12	28
Blackpool	15	8	3	4	22	14	27
Burnley	15	7	5	3	22	14	26
Wycombe	15	6	7	2	22	14	25
Bradford	15	7	3	5	22	23	24
Chestrfld	15	7	3	5	21	14	24
Wrexham	15	6	5	4	20	19	23
Bournemth	15	6	3	6	18	19	21
Stockport	15	5	6	4	16	12	21
Bristol R	15	6	2	7	16	24	20
Rotherham	15	5	4	6	19	20	19
Oxford Utd	15	4	6	5	18	18	18
Swansea	15	4	6	5	17	20	18
Peterboro	15	4	5	6	20	24	17
Shrwsbury	15	5	2	8	20	25	17
Bristol City	14	4	5	5	13	17	17
Walsall	15	4	4	7	18	16	16
Brentford	15	4	3	8	12	20	15
York	15	4	2	9	15	25	14
Brighton	15	3	3	9	13	25	12
Carlisle	15	2	5	8	15	25	11
Hull	15	1	6	8	9	22	9

Third division

(30) Barnet v Doncaster
(31) Bury v Darlington
(32) Cambridge Utd v Scarborough
(33) Chester v Torquay
(34) Colchester v Exeter
(35) Gillingham v Northampton
(36) Hereford v Mansfield
(37) Lincoln v Hartlepool
(38) Plymouth v Cardiff
(39) Preston v Leyton Orient
(40) Scunthorpe v Rochdale
(41) Wigan v Fulham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	15	8	5	2	22	6	29
Preston	15	7	7	1	33	17	28
Chester	15	8	4	3	25	15	28
Colchester	15	7	5	3	24	16	26
Rochdale	15	7	4	4	29	17	25
Plymouth	15	7	3	5	27	19	24
Darlington	15	6	6	3	18	13	24
Doncaster	15	6	4	5	15	20	22
Scunthrpe	15	5	5	5	22	18	20
Wigan	15	5	5	5	20	20	20
Bury	15	5	5	5	20	25	20
L Orient	15	5	5	5	18	17	20
Cambs Utd	15	5	4	6	23	26	19
Hereford	15	4	7	4	20	19	19
Exeter	15	4	7	4	16	19	19
Northmptn	15	5	3	7	18	18	18
Scarboro	15	4	6	5	17	19	18
Fulham	15	3	8	4	20	19	17
Hartlpool	15	4	5	6	13	22	17
Cardiff	15	4	4	7	15	17	16
Barnet	15	3	6	6	14	22	15
Mansfield	15	2	8	5	21	31	14
Torquay	15	2	4	9	15	33	10
Lincoln	15	2	4	9	13	32	10

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Bromsgrove v Stalybridge
(—) Dover v Kidderminster
(—) Gateshead v Slough
(—) Halifax v Bath
(—) Hednesford v Macclesfield
(—) Kettering v Dagenham and Red
(—) Northwich v Runcorn
(—) Southport v Farnborough
(—) Telford v Stevenage
(—) Welling v Altrincham
(—) Woking v Morecambe

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bamber Bridge v Blyth Spartans; Bishop Auckland v Witton; Gainsborough v Leek; Guiseley v Buxton; Hyde v Spennymoor; Marine v Boston. First division: Ashton United v Gretna; Congleton v Bradford PA; Harrogate Town v Atherton LR; Warrington v Lincoln United; Worksop v Whitley Bay. League Cup: Second round: Colwyn Bay v Droylsden.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernarfon v Ebbw Vale.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Galway v Dundalk (7.0).

Bell's Scottish League

Premier division

(42) Aberdeen v Hibernian
(43) Hearts v Partick
(44) Kilmarnock v Raith
(45) Motherwell v Celtic
(46) Rangers v Falkirk

First division

(47) Dumbarton v St Johnstone
(—) Dunfermline v St Mirren
(48) Greenock Morton v Airdrie
(—) Hamilton v Dundee

Second division

(49) Ayr v Stirling
(50) Clyde v Montrose
(51) East Fife v Stranraer
(52) Queen Of South v Forfar
(53) Stenhousemuir v Berwick V

Third division

(54) Albion v Ross County
(55) Alloa v Livingston
(56) Brechin v Cowdenbeath
(57) Caley This v Arbroath
(58) East Stirling v Queen's Park

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Burnham Ramblers v Basildon; Eton Manor v Sawbridgeworth; Hullbridge Sports v Ford United; Maldon v Bowers; Romford v Great Wakering; Southend Manor v Concord; Stansted v Brentwood

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Brimsdown v Beaconsfield SYCOB. League Cup: Second round, first leg: Barkingside v Hillingdon. Second round, second leg: Amersham v St Margaretsbury; Brook House v Willesden (Hawk); Waltham Abbey v Corinthian-Casuals; Woodford v Tottenham Omada; Woolwich v Hanwell.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey Town v Buckingham Athletic; Harpenden v Hoddesdon; Hatfield v Shillington; Langford v Welwyn Garden; Letchworth v Royston; London Colney v Milton Keynes; Potters Bar v Dunstable. Senior Division Cup: Group A: Totternhoe v Bedford United. Senior Division Cup: Group B: Holmer Green v Risborough

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell v Brislington; Bideford v Odd Down; Calne v Barnstaple; Crediton v Mangotsfield; Taunton v Elmore; Tiverton v Paulton; Torrington v Westbury.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Felixstowe v Great Yarmouth, Hadleigh v Fakenham, Halstead v Diss, Harwich and Parkeston v Cornard, Haverhill v Lowestoft; March v Woodbridge, Newmarket v Clacton; Soham v Tiptree, Sudbury v Stowmarket; Wisbech v Wroxham.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: First round replay: Dunkirk v Barwell.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: BAT v Cowes Sports; Bemerton Heath v East Cowes, Christchurch v Ryde Sports; Petersfield v Downton, Thatcham v Gosport; Whitchurch v Totton

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town v Oakwood; Hailsham v Crowborough, Horsham YMCA v Langney Sports; Pagham v Three Bridges

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury v Greenwich; Chatham v Slade Green; Corinthian v Folkestone Invicta, Cray v Whitstable, Deal v Crockenhill, Herne Bay v Furness, Hythe v Dartford, Ramsgate v Tunbridge Wells, Sheppey v Beckenham, Thamesmead v Faversham.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury v Didcot, Bicester v North Leigh, Carterton v Brackley; Kintbury v Cirencester; Lambourn Sports v Abingdon United, Swindon Supermarine v Burnham

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Potton, Bourne v Desborough, Cogenhoe v Mirrlees Blackstone, Kempston v Spalding, Long Buckby v Holbeach Northampton Spencer v Wellingborough, Raunds v Wootton, Stamford v Newport Pagnell, S and L Corby v Stotfold

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Armitage v Kynpersley V, Bolehall S v Willenhall, Chasetown v Shepshed D; Hinckley Athletic v Rocester; Oldbury v Blakenall, Sandwell v Rushall O; Shifnal T v Boldmere St M; Stapenhill v W Mid Police; Stratford v Halesowen H

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Ansells v Southam, Chelmsley v Highgate, Handrahan Timbers v Knowle, Kings Heath v Upton, Olton Royale v Northfield, Shirley v Bloxwich, Studley BKL v Wellesbourne

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill T v Walsall Wood, Cradley Town v Stourport S, Ettingshall H v Westfields; Gornal A v Darlaston, Ludlow T v Lye Town, Malvern T v Hill Top R, Pelsall V v Lichfield C, Wednesfield v Tividale

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper Town v Goole, Brigg v Stocksbridge P S., Denaby v Sheffield; Hallam v Ashfield, Hatfield Main v Arnold; Hucknall v Armthorpe Welfare, North Ferriby v Maltby M W., Ossett Town v Ossett Albion; Pickering v Glasshoughton Welfare; Thackley v Liversedge

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers v Skelmersdale, Bootle v Kidsgrove, Burscough v Maine Road; Darwen v Mossley, Eastwood H v Salford; Flixton v Clitheroe; Glossop North End v Newcastle Town, Holker Old Boys v Prescot; Nantwich v Rossendale; St Helens v Trafford.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v West Auckland, Billingham v Seaham Red Star, Dunston Federation v Consett, Ferryhill v Whitby; Guisborough v Crook; Peterlee v Whickham; RTM Newcastle v Murton, Stockton v Shildon, Tow Law v Eppleton CW

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor v Ards, Crusaders v Cliftonville; Glenavon v Portadown, Linfield v Glentoran

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Charlton Ath v Ipswich; Gillingham v Fulham, Leyton Orient v Cambridge United; Millwall v Tottenham Hotspur; Norwich v Arsenal; Portsmouth v Watford, QPR v West Ham United, Southend v Chelsea.

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second qualifying round: Alfreton v Dudley; Atherstone v Accrington Stanley; Barrow v Winsford; Basingstoke v Uxbridge, Bilston Town v Leicester United, Bognor Regis v Sittingbourne: Braintree Town v Harrow; Carshalton v Weymouth, Chertsey v Chesham, Clevedon v Worcester; Crawley v Bashley; Curzon Ashton v Lancaster; Eastwood Town v Chorley; Emley v RC Warwick; Evesham v Aldershot Town, Grantham v Farsley, Great Harwood v Frickley; Hendon v Gravesend and Northfl, Leigh RMI v Matlock; Maidenhead v Thame United, Newport AFC v Fleet Town, Nuneaton v Knowsley; Purfleet v Corby; Radcliffe v Fleetwood, Salisbury v Sudbury Town; Staines v Havant; Tamworth v Netherfield, Tooting and Mitcham v Baldock Town, Trowbridge Town v Bishop's Stortford, Walton and Hersham v Oxford City; Wembley v Ruislip Manor; Yate Town v Heybridge Swifts

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Crouch End Vampires v O Actonians, Kew Association v Norsemen, South Bank v Civil Service; West Wickham v Ensthameans; Winchmore Hill v Nat West Bank. Second division: Barclays Bank v Bromleians, O Latymerians v Lensbury; O Parmiterians v Midland Bank, Polytechnic v Alexandra Park. Third division: Bank of England v Southgate Olympic; Broomfield v Cuaco, Ibis v Reigate Priory; Merton v Brentham.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chigwellians v Aldenhamians, Cholmeleians v Carthusians, Malvernians v Foresters; Reptonians v Lancing. First division: Ardinians v Haberdashers, Bradfieldians v Witleians; Harrovians v Wykehamists; Salopians v Haileyburians. Wellingburians v Westminsters

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: O Grammarians v Hale End Ath, Parkfield v Nottsborough, Southgate County v St Mary's Coll. Senior two: Ealing Assoc v City of London, Honourable Artillery Co v Corinthian Casuals, O Bealonians v O Woodhouseians, UCL Academicals v Wandsworth Borough.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: O Danes v Latymer; O Hamptonians v Clapham, Ignatians v O Isleworthians, O Tenisonians v O Meadonians. Senior first division: O Manorians v O Tiffinians, Salvatorians v Chertsey; O Vaughanians v O Tenisonians Res. Shene v O Kingsburians

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: RTM Newcastle v Kidderminster Harr; Langford v Tranmere; Notts County v Huddersfield; Sheffield Wednesday v Garswood St Helens. Southern division: Berkhamstead v Brighton and Hove, Ipswich v Southampton Saints; Leyton Orient v Brentford, Three Bridges v Town and County; Wimbledon v Oxford Utd

SCHOOLS MATCHES (10.30 unless stated) English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Liverpool v Bolton. English Schools Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Bedfordshire v Norfolk. London Rangers Cup: Islington v Hackney. Essex Johnson Cup: Havering v Barking, Redbridge v Basildon. Middlesex Star Shield: Brent v Barnett. Harrow v Ealing. Surrey Black Cup: Croydon v Richmond, Sutton v Woking. Kent President Shield: Bromley v Gravesham; North Kent v Madstone. Shaw Cup: Norwich v Cambridge, Yarmouth v Ipswich, Peterborough v West Suffolk. Northern Merit: Leeds v Sefton. Goodhand Trophy: Hull v Derby; Nottingham v South Notts. Hampshire Stokes Shield: Andover v Gosport, Southampton v Portsmouth. Woodward Cup: Wigan v Blackpool. Inter-Association: Bermondsey v Orpington, Vale of White Horse v Gosport. Welsh Shield: Ebbw Vale v Torfaen. Welsh Glyncoed Shield: Cardiff v Newport

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Sheffield v Fife (6.30)

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Humberside (6.30), Milton Keynes v Cardiff (5.30), Nottingham v Newcastle (6.30), Slough v Durham (6.30). First division: Billingham v Manchester (6.30), Blackburn v Medway (6.0), Guildford v Peterborough (6.0), Murrayfield v Chelmsford (6.30), Solihull v Dumfries (5.30), Swindon v Paisley (5.30), Telford v Bracknell (7.30).

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheadle v Cheadle Hulme, Boardman and Eccles v Timperley; Heaton Mersey v Sheffield. Poynton v Old Waconians, Hulmeians v Stockport

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: Reebok Liverpool City v Manchester Utd Salford, KLEA Leeds v Newcastle (Stafis), Polonia Ealing v Wessex, Tooting Aquila v Warwick Riga, Sheffield v Whitefield; Team Mizuno Malory Lewisham v Solent. Women: KLEA Leeds v London Malory

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

CIS Insurance tour match

Pontypridd v Fiji (2.30)

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Bristol v Orrell
Harlequins v Leicester (2.15)
Sale v Bath
Saracens v Gloucester (2.30)
Wasps v West Hartlepool

Second division

Bedford v Nottingham
Blackheath v Moseley
Newcastle v London Irish
Northampton v London Scottish
Wakefield v Waterloo (2.30)

Pilkington Cup

Third round

Bridlington v Winnington Park (2.15)
Coventry v Stourbridge
Exeter v Redruth
Leeds v Fylde (2.30)
Lewes v Camberley (2.30)
London Welsh v Richmond (2.45)
Macclesfield v Walsall (2.15)
Metropolitan Police v Reading
Otley v Rugby (2.15)
Tabard v Lydney (2.30)
Weston-super-Mare v Henley
Worcester v Liverpool St Helens (2.15)

Heineken League

First division

Ebbw Vale v Newbridge (2.30)
Llanelli v Bridgend (2.30)
Neath v Abertillery (2.30)
Treorchy v Newport (2.30)

Second division

Abercynon v Dunvant (2.30)
Bonymaen v Tenby Utd (2.30)
Cross Keys v Pontypool (2.30)
Llanharan v South Wales Police (2.30)
Maesteg v Caerphilly (2.30)
Ystradgynlais v Llandovery (2.30)
Third division, Blackwood v Penarth, Builth Wells v Tredegar, Cardiff Inst v Blaina, Kenfig Hill v Glamorgan Wndrs, Mountain Ash v Narberth, Tondu v Pyle.

Tennents Premiership

First division

Boroughmuir v Hawick (2.30)
Heriot's FP v Edinburgh Acads (2.30)
Melrose v Watsonians (2.30)
Stirling County v Gala (2.30)

Second division

Currie v West of Scotland (2.30)
G H K v Stewart's Mel FP (2.30)
Jed-Forest v Kelso (2.30)
Selkirk v Dundee HSFP (2.30)

Third division

Biggar v Musselburgh (2.30)
Corstorphine v Glasgow Acads (2.30)
Grangemouth v Peebles (2.30)
Preston Lodge v Kirkcaldy (2.30)

Fourth division

Ayr v Haddington (2.30)
Edinburgh Wndrs v Gordonians (2.30)
Glasgow Southern v Langholm (2.30)
Wigtownshire v Kilmarnock (2.30)

Club matches

Askeans v Ruislip (2.30)
Brixham v Plymouth (2.30)
Broughton Park v Old Aldwynians (2.30)
Camborne v St Ives (2.30)
Driffield v Sheffield (2.30)
Kendal v Aspatria (2.30)
Leek v Lichfield (2.30)
Preston Gr'hoppers v Harrogate (2.15)
Rosslyn Park v Nuneaton
Willenhall v Stoke (2.30)
York v Wharfedale (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Egremont v Saddleworth (2.30), Mayfield v Lock Lane (2.30)

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Guildford v Southgate (Kings Manor School 12.30).

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford v Newbury; Beckenham v Gore Court; Bournemouth v Spencer; Lewes v High Wycombe; Lions v Woking; Maidenhead v Old Kingstonians, Old Walcountians v Wokingham; Oxford Hawks v Fareham; Wimbledon v Chichester; Winchester v Anchorians. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Purley; Camberley v Walton and Weybridge, Cheam v Andover; Dulwich v Southampton, London University v Basingstoke; Old Cranleighans v Petersfield, Old Edwardians v Oxshott; Old Whitgiftians v Old Mid Whitgiftians, Oxted v Blandford; Solent HC v Epsom. Kent/Sussex: Belvedere v Horsham; Bexleyheath v Tulse Hill; Bexley Invicta v Mid Sussex, Blackheath v Sevenoaks; Bognor v Marden Russets, Brighton v Old Beccehamians; Crawley v Old Williamsonians; Herne Bay v Old Holcombeians, Middleton v Old Bordenians, Worthing v Tunbridge Wells. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Hayes; Bracknell v Hendon, City Of Oxford v Harrow; Eastcote v Marlow, ETESSA v Milton Keynes, Headington v HCC; Ramgarhia v OMT, Richings Park v PHC Chiswick; Staines v Mill Hill, Sunbury v NPL.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Bridgnorth; Bloxwich v Khalsa, John Player v Harbourne, North Notts v Hampton-in-Arden, Nottingham v Loughborough Students

SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: First division: Bath Buccs v Exeter University; Cheltenham v Plymouth, Swansea v Taunton Vale, Weston-super-Mare v Robinsons.

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Formby v Timperley; Halifax v Sheffield Bankers, Harrogate v Ben Rhydding; Southport v Neston, Warrington v Norton. Second Division Blackburn v Doncaster, Brooklands v Tynemouth; Disley v Durham University, Hull v Swalwell, Knutsford v Ramgarhia v Northern v Springfields, Oxton v Alderley Edge; Stockton v York; Wakefield v Bowdon; Wigan v Chester.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier A: Bedford Town v Cambridge City, Bishop's Stortford v Bury St Edmunds, Chelmsford v Peterborough Town, Colchester v Cambridge University, Ipswich V Redbridge and Ilford. Premier B: Clacton v Brentwood; Dereham v Ipswich and East Suffolk, Norwich City v Westcliff, Old Southendian v Stevenage; Romford v Sudbury

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Hightown v Bracknell (12.0). Leicester v Clifton (12.30, Melton Mowbray). Slough v Ipswich (4.0), Sutton CL v Doncaster (11.30). First division: Bedens v Chelmsford (2.30), Blueharts v Trojans (2.0, Hitchin BS); Canterbury v Bradford (12.0); Wimbledon v Exmouth (11.45). Second division: Loughboro S v Sherwood (2.30), Olton v Ealing (2.0); Reading v St Albans (2.0), Woking v Aldridge (12.30).

WELSH LEAGUE: Colwyn Bay v Llanfair, Newport v Cardiff Ath; Newtown v Haverfordwest, Penarth v Pontypridd. Swansea v Newport.

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Cambs C v Harleston, Ipswich II v Saracens, Sevenoaks v Bexleyheath, WGC v Loughtonians Midlands, Leicester II v Hampton, Kettering v Pickwick, Peveril v Ramblers, Tamworth v Bedford. North: Blackburn v York, Carlisle v Sheffield, Don Valley v Newcastle, Liverpool v Poynton. South: Camberley v Dulwich, City of Portsmth v Southampton; Hampstead v Hendon, Winchester v Winchmore Hill; Worthing v W Witney. West: Bournemouth v Redland, Colwall v Leominster, St Austell v Wimborne, Yale v Cheltenham.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester v London (7.30). 7UP Trophy: Derby v Leicester (8.0)

NETBALL: International: England v Cook Islands (Wembley, 1.30).

ROWING: Fullers Fours Head of the River (Mortlake to Putney, 1.15)

TENNIS: Guardian Direct national championships (Telford)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership

Everton v Blackburn (4.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

Charlton v Sunderland (2.55)
Oldham v Port Vale
West Bromwich v Leicester (2.55)

Scottish League Challenge Cup

Final

Dundee Utd v Stenhousemuir (at McDiarmid Park)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Derry v Athlone (3.15), UCD v Cork (3.15)

FA WOMEN'S NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE: Arsenal v Millwall Lionesses; Croydon v Liverpool FC Ladies, Doncaster Belles v Wolverhampton, Everton v Villa Aztecs, Ilkeston v Wembley

RUGBY UNION

Heineken League

First division

Cardiff v Aberavon (4.0)

OTHER MATCH: England Classical XV v Banbury XV (at Banbury, 2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Championship

Castleford v London Broncos (3.30)
Sheffield v Oldham (3.15)
St Helens v Halifax
Workington v Bradford

First division

Dewsbury v Salford
Huddersfield v Batley (3.30)
Hull v Whitehaven (3.15)
Keighley v Featherstone (3.15)
Rochdale v Widnes

Second division

Barrow v Doncaster (2.30)
Carlisle v Swinton (2.00)
Chorley v Hull K R
Highfield v Hunslet
Leigh v Bramley

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury v Havant (Polo Farm 1.30). East Grinstead v Cannock (Saint Hill 2.0); Hull v Surbiton (Orchard Park 2.0), Indian Gymkhana v Bournville (Osterley 2.30); Old Loughtonians v Hounslow (Chigwell 1.30); St Albans v Reading (Clarence Park 2.0); Stourport v Teddington (Kidderminster School 2.0); Trojans v Barford Tigers (Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh 1.30)

Second division: City of Portsmouth v Sheffield (Mountbatten Centre 1.30), Doncaster v Crostyx (Bennetthorpe 2.0); Edgbaston v Hampstead and Westminster (Birmingham University 12.30). Gloucester City v Firebrands (Plock Court 1.30); Harleston Magpies v Olton and West Warwickshire (Shotford Heath 2.0); Isca v Bromley (Exeter School 2.0); Oxford University v Brooklands (St Edward's School 2.0), Richmond v Beeston (Teddington School 2.0). Slough v Blueharts (Wexham School 2.0).

WOMEN'S WELSH LEAGUE: Cardiff Ath v Swansea, Colwyn Bay v H'west; Llanfair v Penarth, Pontypridd v Newport

AEWHA CUP: Second round (selected fixtures) Bournemouth v Lansdown (2.30). Cheltenham v W Witney (12.0), Chester v Blackburn (1.0); Copdock v Loughtonians (3.0); Crimson R v Lincoln Imps (1.30). Sevenoaks v WGC (2.0).

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Nottingham v Humberside (7.0). British League: Premier division: Basingstoke v Slough (6.30), Cardiff v Sheffield (6.15), Newcastle v Durham (6.30). First division: Billingham v Murrayfield (5.15), Blackburn v Guildford (6.0), Bracknell v Swindon (5.15), Dumfries v Chelmsford (5.30), Manchester v Solihull (6.30), Medway v Telford (5.15), Peterborough v Paisley (6.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Doncaster v Chester (5.30), Sheffield v Leopards (6.15).

CYCLING: International Eight Nations track meeting (Manchester, 1.0); International cyclo-cross race (Eastway, Stratford, London, 2.0)

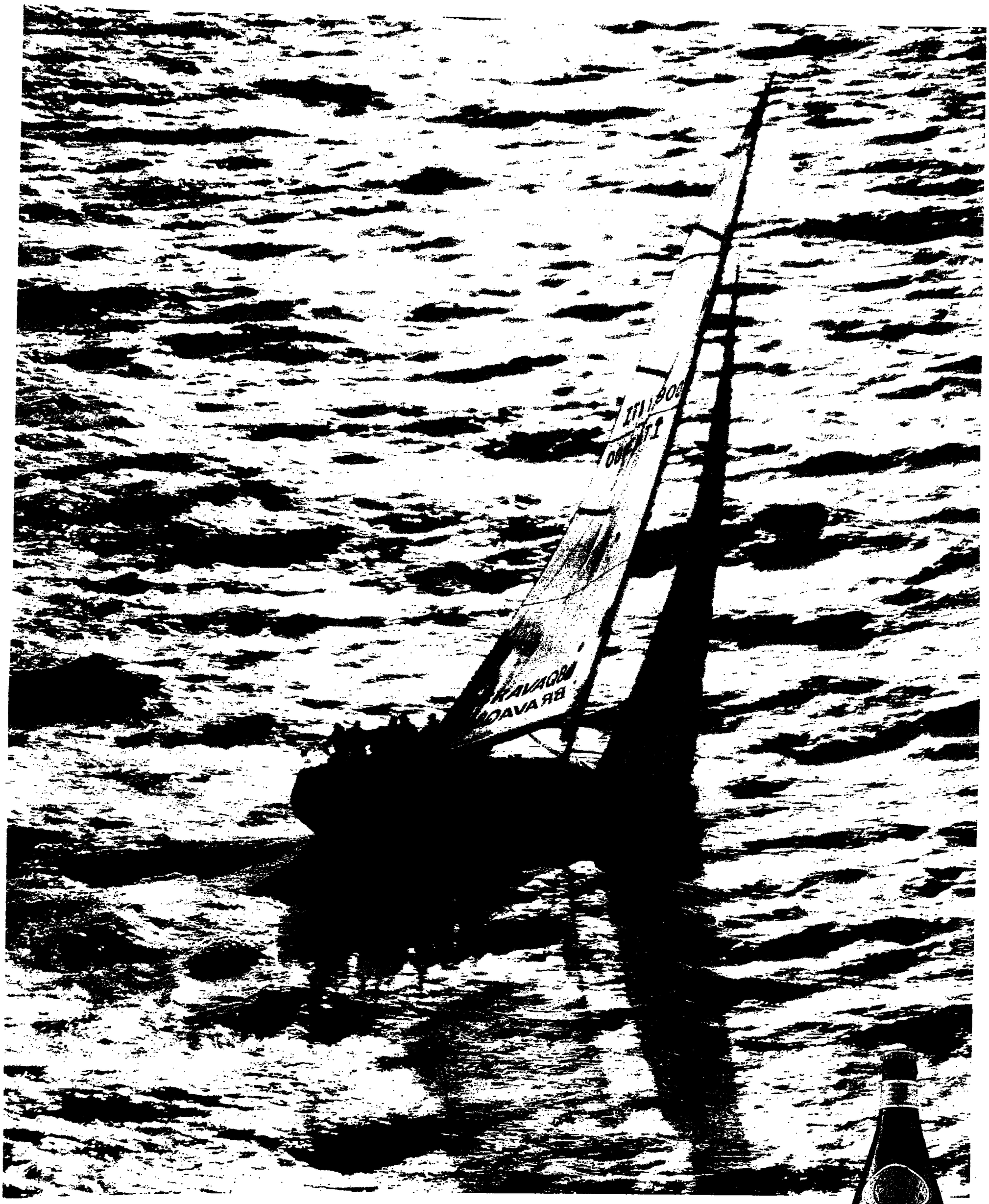
TENNIS: Guardian Direct national championships (Telford).

VOLLEYBALL: National League. Women: First division: Reebok Liverpool City v Man Utd Salford, Orpington v Ashcombe Guildford Spectrum; Britannia Music City v Loughborough

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Nemuro offers top value in Chepstow showpiece

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the dictionary definitions of value is fair return and **Nemuro** can offer more than that in the Tote Silver Trophy at Chepstow this afternoon.

Win or lose — and David Elsworth's improving hurdler has a genuine chance of landing this £20,000-added prize — the seven-year-old should not be as big a price as 14-1, being offered by Ladbrokes. So he must rate as today's value bet.

A winner of six races on the Flat in the French provinces, he then went to Ireland where he won over hurdles at Roscommon, before joining Elsworth midway through last season. Not for the first time, Desert Orchid's handler conjured immediate improvement out of his new recruit and, after just being pipped off bottom weight in a valuable Aintree race Nemuro went on to win the Welsh Champion Hurdle over today's course.

On his seasonal reappearance at Kempton three weeks ago, he did particularly well under top weight to finish within eight lengths of the winner, Jalcanto, as his saddle slipped at a crucial stage of the race. That run should have put him spot on and the booking of Tony Procter, a useful conditional jockey, is a bonus.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: NEMURO
(1.30 Chepstow)

Next best: Leap For Joy
(2.50 Doncaster)

"We are optimistic. He ran a good race at Kempton and although I don't think the saddle slipping made any difference to the result, I believe he will improve a pound or two for that run," Elsworth said. "I think he has a good sporting chance, along with two or three others."

Squire Silk is at the top of Elsworth's list of dangers after Andy Turnell's best hurdler quickened in eye-catching style to win on his seasonal reappearance at Newbury a fortnight ago. He has sound claims, although that victory came in a slowly run race against only four opponents.

With Hebridean heading the weights, his David Nicholson-trained stablemate, Anzum, will attract support, especially with Adrian Maguire electing to ride. The step up in trip is likely to suit the Ardross gelding but all his best form last year was on genuinely soft ground and this is not a race which favours four-year-olds.

Six of the past eight runnings of this race have gone to a horse making a seasonal debut. The well-regarded Conquering Leader, winner of three of her four starts over hurdles last term, is sure to improve but she is 5lb out of the handicap.

At Doncaster, the defection of the top three entries for the November Handicap has prompted a 21lb rise in the weights which has enabled all 19 runners to obtain a genuine racing weight. The pair which have most to gain from the changed shape of the last big handicap of the Flat season are Beauchamp Jade and Snow Princess.

Beauchamp Jade is still a maiden but has returned two excellent efforts after a long summer break and and her second to Al Widyan at Leicester gives the filly every chance. She has shown her liking for fast ground, unlike many of her opponents, but she may find **Snow Princess** too good. Lord Huntingdon's filly is thriving after landing three victories inside the past five weeks, and looks weighted to go in again.

JULIAN HERBERT



Anzum and Maguire are among the leading contenders for the Tote Silver Trophy at Chepstow today

Cherrynut can collect again

CHEPSTOW
BBC1

1.00: There should be plenty of pace, which may deny Kilbreet and James the First the opportunity to dominate. Run Up The Flag, Old Bridge and Sailor Jim are better over further. Regal Romper's jumping has been sketchy, so it is worth risking **Pontynyswen** on his seasonal reappearance. Dai Burchell's runner progressed steadily last term and goes well here.

1.30: see above.

2.00: Probably the best novice chase so far this season sees the Sun Alliance Hurdle runner-up, Berude Not To, and useful Irish import, Hill Of Tullow, make their chasing debuts. Both are sure to win races but experience could count here and **Cherrynut**, winner of six out of seven point-to-points last season, won a chase in taking style at Worcester a fortnight ago and can follow up.

WINCANTON
CHANNEL 4

2.30: David Elsworth should saddle the first two home in this badly supported race. The question is in which order. Last season, Absalom's Lady beat her stablemate, Atours, twice and lost once. However, the weights today favour **Atours**, who also has the benefit of having already won this season. Clifton Beat has plenty to do.

3.00: Bas De Laine made an encouraging comback behind General Rusty after a season off and should progress but **Wise Approach** can get back on the winning trail. Winner of his last four completed starts, he paid for a rare error at Cheltenham last time but should be better suited by this right-handed track and longer trip. Brackenfield is an interesting debutant for Paul Nicholls.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

DONCASTER
CHANNEL 4

2.20: This represents a drop in class for Capias after two creditable efforts in group company since winning at Leicester. John Gosden's runner should be thereabouts but the long, galloping straight here should prove ideal for **Naked Welcome**, who came from last to first to beat Seckar Vale at Newmarket. Henry Cecil's Al Widyan is still improving.

2.50: Mistle Cat arguably has the best form but is far from certain to be so effective on his first attempt at this trip. Montendre is one of the most consistent horses in training and goes particularly well here, while Royale Figurine has done her connections proud this term. But **Leap For Joy** is the choice. She has shown progessive form in her last two starts, particularly when winning a group three race in Italy.

3.25: see above.

4.00: Paul Cole is wasting no time with **Merit**, a comfortable winner at Edinburgh on Thursday and on the all-weather at Lingfield 12 days ago. The Rainbow Quest colt picks up a 3lb penalty for his latest success but actually runs off a lower handicap mark than at Edinburgh. He can stretch classier opponents weighted up to the hilt. Of the rest, Sugar Mill looks the biggest threat.

RICHARD EVANS

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TOTE CREDIT NOVEMBER H'CAP
1½ miles, Doncaster 3.25 pm, Live on CH4 TV.

4/1	Snow Princess	25/1	Time For Action
13/2	Reimei	33/1	Artic Courier
7/1	Dato Star	33/1	Askern
7/1	Whitechapel	33/1	Johns Act
9/1	Beauchamp Jade	33/1	Lord Hastie
10/1	Foundry Lane	33/1	Mentalasanythin
10/1	Indigo Time	33/1	Secret Service
10/1	Royal Scimitar	40/1	Bayrak
12/1	Proton	50/1	Wentbridge Lad
16/1	Korambi		

Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3, 4. Prices subject to fluctuation. Available up to 3.10pm. Tattersalls Rule 4(c) may apply. Non runner – no bet.

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DONCASTER

THUNDERER

12.50 Shaamit	2.20 CAPIAS (nap)
1.20 Stop Play	2.50 Branston Abby
1.50 Seigneurial	3.25 Snow Princess
	4.00 Merit

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.00 **MERIT.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.50 **SHAAMIT** (nap). 2.20 Capias. 2.50 Mistle Cat.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

12.50 BOC SUREFLOW MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,189: 1m) (24 runners)

101	(24)	03	CLASSY CHIEF 17 (R. Sturgis) R Boss 9-0	R Hughes	97
102	(23)	00	COMPASS POINTER 31 (Park Lane Racing) J Eustace 9-0	M Tebbutt	88
103	(5)		HOOFPRINTS (S Lewis) G Harwood 9-0	A Clark	–
104	(11)	50	LE SPORT 148 (Simple Technology UK Ltd) A Bailey 9-0	D Wright (3)	62
105	(19)		MISKY BAY (G Strawbridge) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	–
106	(18)	32	NORTHERN SOUL 16 (C Buckley) M Johnston 9-0	A Darley	92
107	(2)	3	PENCILLED IN 9 (BF) (Sheikh Mohammed) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid	87
108	(7)	0	ROYAL EXPOSE 57 (M Al-Shaqsi) R Hannon 9-0	J Carroll	–
109	(22)		SAWA-ID (H Al Maktoum) J Gosden 9-0	W Carson	–
110	(13)	5	SERENDIPITY 99 (J Darby) J Dunlop 9-0	R Cochrane	97
111	(6)	4	SHAAMIT 39 (F. Dasmal) W Haggas 9-0	M Hills	88
112	(15)		SHOOTING LIGHT (Lord Harrington) M Jarvis 9-0	P Robinson	–
113	(10)	0	SPARTAN HEARTBEAT 11 (C Dilley) C Brittain 9-0	M Birch	–
114	(14)		SQUANDAMANIA (M Arbib) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	–
115	(17)		STUNNING PROSPECT (G Pilkington) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	–
116	(9)	0	VILLAGE KING 23 (H Aramadi) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill (5)	94
117	(21)	4	ALWAYS HAPPY 12 (Chevelley Park Stud) J Fanshawe 8-9	W Woods	96
118	(16)	00	DRIFTHOLME 18 (Pennine Partners) G L Moore 8-9	S Whitworth	88
119	(8)	00	HOME COOKIN' 58 (Galloping Gourmets) J Scargill 8-9	Dale Gibson	86
120	(20)		IN THE BAND (T Corbo) Lord Huntingdon 8-9	R Hills	–
121	(4)	0	ON THE CARPET 26 (P Wragg) J Dunlop 8-9	G Duffield	–
122	(3)	0	SPINNING MOUSE 16 (Lord Harrington) D Morley 8-9	M Fenton	–
123	(1)		THEA (T & J Vestey) J Fanshawe 8-9	M Varley (3)	–
124	(12)		WAR SHANTY (Mrs J Mackie) J Arnold 8-9	J Quinn	–

BETTING: 5-2 Shaamit, 5-1 Pencilled In, 6-1 Misky Say, 7-1 Serendipity, 8-1 Sawa-Id, 10-1 Always Happy, Northern Soul, 12-1 Shooting Light, Stunning Prospect, 14-1 others.

1994: Q FACTOR 8-9 A Mackay (5-1) D Haydn Jones 19 ran

1.20 WEMBLEY NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £4,403: 7f) (13 runners)

201	(7)	201145	DOUBLE DIAMOND 29 (D,G) (2nd Middleham Pints) M Johnston 9-7	T Williams	90
202	(11)	030233	GENERAL ROSE 36 (G) (D Gallop) R Hannon 8-13	Dane O'Neill (5)	87
203	(10)	356331	PROUD MONK 14 (D,S) (Pennine Partners) G L Moore 8-12	S Whitworth	89
204	(6)	103250	STOP PLAY 9 (V,G) (Mark Tompkins Racing) M Tompkins 8-11	P Robinson	96
205	(5)	265101	QUALITY 5 (B,D,F) (N Yong) W O Gorman 8-11 (7ex)	Emma O'Gorman	97
206	(1)	210436	CAPTURE THE MOMENT 73 (G) (Reality Keen Pints) R Williams 8-10	D Biggs	85
207	(13)	031025	PRECIOUS GIRL 9 (G,S) (P Jones) D Moffatt 8-9	Gussen Moffatt (3)	94
208	(3)	6330	SWIFT MAIDEN 14 (M & N Plant Ltd) Mrs L Murphy 8-6	S Drowne (3)	93
209	(12)	43643	CAPILANO PRINCESS 18 (H Collis) D Haydn Jones 8-1	A Mackay	86
210	(8)	840	FLAHUL 32 (N Hayes) R Hannon 8-0	J Quinn	92
211	(9)	35600	PERCY PARK 11 (A Hodgson) M W Easterby 7-9	P Fessey (5)	97
212	(4)	000	MA BULSIE 22 (J Blain) B McMahon 7-7	G Bardwell	88
213	(2)	100000	DOWN THE YARD 19 (F) (G Whitingl) M Chapman 7-7	Martin Dwyer (7)	93

Long handicap: Ma Bulsie 6-8, Down The Yard 6-7

BETTING: 5-1 Quality, 6-1 General Rose, 7-1 Proud Monk, 8-1 Double Diamond, Precious Girl, 10-1 others

1994: DUFFERTOES 9-4 G Carter (16-1) M Ryan 21 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M F Godley	6	21	28.6	R Hughes	4	19	21.1
J Gosden	37	144	25.7	M Hills	25	149	16.8
H Cecil	26	103	25.2	L Dettori	28	188	14.9
W Haggas	3	12	25.0	R Hills	12	81	14.8
R Charlton	6	29	20.7	W Carson	34	238	14.3
M Stoute	22	113	19.5	A Darley	31	241	12.9

1.50 CIU NSPCC APPEAL HANDICAP (£4,713: 5f) (22 runners)

301	(10)	504524	LADY SHERIFF 5 (B,D,BF,F,G) (E Morgan) M W Easterby 4-10-0	L Dettori	96
302	(15)	36-R002	SEIGNEURIAL 4 (D,G) (Mrs P.F Grissell) G Harwood 3-10-0	A Clark	88
303	(11)	221060	ELLE SHAPED 42 (D,F,G) (Lynne Fleming) J L Eyre 5-9-13	D Wright (3)	95
304	(12)	062400	BENZOE 28 (F,S) (T Fawcett) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-12	K Fallon	98
305	(21)	000000	ASHTINA 5 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Storrie) P Pearce 10-9-10	R Hughes	97
306	(16)	026051	INSIDER TRADER 21 (B,D,F,G) (Lord Matthew) R Guest 4-9-11	G Duffield	97
307	(20)	00-3550	PRINCESS SADIE 8 (D,F,S) (J Gorton) M Johnston 3-9-10	P Robinson	90
308	(19)	621102	PORTELET 4 (D,F,G) (Lord Matthew) P Gould 7-9-9	Diane O'Neill (5)	93
309	(14)	404120	TINKER OSKASTOU 16 (CD,BF,F,S) (J Lee) M Salaman 4-9-8	J F Egan	95
310	(3)	400000	SELHURSTPARK FLYER 24 (E,D,F,S) (C Dingwall) J Berry 4-8-7	J Carroll	98
311	(16)	230000	BEAU VENTURE 31 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Sadler) P Lee 7-8-6	R Lappin	97
312	(17)	301000	MACFARLANE 18 (CD,G,S) (Mr P Appleby) M Pettinger 5-8-6	J Reid	90
313	(9)	206000	ABRA 28 (F,S) (J Bevan) R O Sullivan 5-8-5	T Quinn	92
314	(7)	113303	PEARL DAWN 34 (D,BF,F,G) (Mrs D Hasler) J Wharton 5-8-5	S Whitworth	95
315	(5)	600008	SHADOW JURY 5 (B,D,F,S) (Mrs J Dupont) D Shaw 5-8-5	L Charnock	92
316	(22)	023000	SUPERPRIDE 11 (S) (Mrs M Worth) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-5	K Darley	90
317	(20)	201300	BARGLES 19 (D,F,G) (J Rose) Lord Huntingdon 5-8-4	W Woods	95
318	(4)	306000	I'M YOUR LADY 42 (R) (R Speight) R Whitaker 4-8-0	Master Dwyer (7)	95
319	(1)	000044	PRIMA SILK 12 (C,D,BF,G) (Mrs N. Pallin) W Musson 5-8-0	T Ives	96
320	(18)	004201	LITTLE BIRR 16 (D,F,G) (Bernerstich Transport Ltd) R Fahey 5-8-0	S Drowne (3)	95
321	(6)	055420	SILK COTTAGE 16 (C,D,G) (J Rose) Lord Huntingdon 5-8-0	A Culhane	96
322	(13)	000030	METAL BOYS 5 (D,F,G,S) (Miss L Siddall) Miss L Siddall 5-8-0	G Hind	90

BETTING: 7-1 Wooden Trader, 8-1 Tinker Oskastou, 10-1 Feet Down, Lady Sheriff, 12-1 Percale, Jarla Icon, Prima Silk, 14-1 others

1994: PRESS THE BELL 4-9-3 J Carroll (3ex) J Berry, 21 ran

2.20 COOPERATIVE BANK SERLBY STAKES
(Listed race. £11,421. 1m 4f) (8 runners)

C4

401	(5)	52-1126	CAPIAS 30 (D,F,G) (Sheik Mohammed) J Gosden 4-9-0	L Dettori	91
402	(1)	220001	BLUSHING FLAME 14 (CD,F,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 4-9-0	M Hills	88
403	(3)	400002	DREAMS END 9 (D,G,S) (T Fisher) J Berry 4-9-0	G Hind	77
404	(4)	41104	JELLABY ASKHIR 36 (D,F) (S Bin Mussabeh) R Hannon 4-9-0	R Hughes	59
405	(2)	111214	LASIBEH 14 (D,F,S) (H Al Maktoum) J Gosden 4-9-0	W Carson	96
406	(6)	10-0461	AL WIDYAN 12 (D,F,S) (Prince A Faisal) – Date 5-8-7	R Cochrane	88
407	(7)	410301	NAKED WELCOME 23 (CD,F,G) (Mrs Rosemary Pena, M Sinclair) 5-8-7	J Reid	89
408	(3)	21644	ROYAL CIRCLE 29 (F) (Sheikh Ahmed) R Charlton 5-8-7	K Darley	89

BETTING: 3-1 Capias, 5-1 Lasibeh, Jellaby, Naked Welcome, 6-1 Al Widyan, Blushing Flame, 8-1 others

1994: ZILZAL ZAMAAN 5-8-7 J Reid, 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

CAPIAS fell 2nd to Vintage Crop in group 3f Anheuser Busch Curragh Cup (1m 6f, good to firm) on penultimate start. BLUSHING FLAME beat Step Aloft neck in handicap over course and distance (good to firm). DREAMS END beat Jenas 2nd to Main Offender in conditions race at Nottingham (1m 2f, good to firm). JELLABY ASKHIR beat Sharrood 6th of 14 in Music in listed race at Newmarket (1m 4f, good). LASIBEH 5th of 10 to Phantom Gold in group 1a Premio Ottomiani at San Siro (1m, good to soft). AL WIDYAN beat Beauchamp Jade 2¾ in conditions race at Leicester (1m 3f, firm). NAKED WELCOME beat Seckar Vale neck in handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm).

Selection: CAPIAS (nap)

2.50 KEEPMOAT HOLDINGS STAKES
(Listed race: £12,030: 6f) (12 runners)

C4

501	(11)	134460	MONTENDRE 16 (CD,F,G) (D Muir) M McCormack 9-9-0	R Cochrane	95
502	(9)	300235	BAYTH 77 (D,F,G,S) (T Barker, M Usher 5-8-11	R Street	65
503	(3)	200111	CROFT POOL 14 (C,D,F,G) (Countryside Classics) J Fisher 4-8-7	S D Williams	83
504	(12)	130-021	LEAP FOR JOY 20 (D,F,S) (S Hall) J Gosden 3-8-11	L Dettori	86
505	(10)	124204	MISTLE CAT 23 (G,S) (P Clay) S Woods 5-8-11	W Woods	97
506	(8)	513020	TAKADOU 14 (BF,F,G,S) (F Tyldesley) Miss L Siddall 4-8-11	W Newnes	84
507	(2)	110-01	ART OF WAR 40 (D,G,S) (Executors of Sir P Oppenheimer) R Charlton 3-8-10	K Darley	95
508	(7)	000226	FIRE DOME 13 (G) (Hd Al-Shaqab) R Hannon 3-8-10	R Hughes	90
509	(4)	006026	SHAMANIC 28 (D,F,G) (R Russell) R Hannon 3-8-10	T Quinn	87
510	(5)	210350	BRANSTON ABBY 20 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) (J Snell) M Johnston 6-8-9	P Robinson	89
511	(6)	042112	ROYALE FIGURINE 13 (C,D,F,G,S) (C Pearman) M Fetherston-Godley 4-8-9	J Reid	94
512	(1)	240100	CARRAMITA 16 (D,G,S) (Lamb Lane Associates) B Falling 5-8-6	T Sprake	97

BETTING: 4-1 Mistle Cat, 5-1 Art Of War, Branston Abby, 7-1 Croft Pool, Royale Figurine, Leap For Joy, 8-1 Montendre, 10-1 others

1994: DOUBLE BLUE 5-8-11 J Weaver (7-1) M Johnston 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

CROFT POOL beat Coffee 'N Cream ½l in 10-runner handicap here (5f, good to firm) with TAKADOU (3lb better off) about 2½ 7th. LEAP FOR JOY beat Palacegate Episode ¾l in 9-runner group III Premio Omenoni at San Siro (5f, good to soft). MISTLE CAT 2½l 4th of 8 to Hazyio in the group II Challenge Stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). ART OF WAR beat Sotzero 4l in conditions race at Hamilton (6f, good). BRANSTON ABBY best recent effort two short-heads 3rd of 15 to Cool Jazz in group III Diadem Stakes at Ascot (6f, soft). ROYALE FIGURINE promoted short-neck and neck 2nd of 7 to Ballyhard in group III Prix du Petit Couvert at Longchamp (5f, firm) with FIRE DOME (3lb better off) 3½l 6th.

Selection: MISTLE CAT

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Holt 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good to soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.25 TOTE CREDIT NOVEMBER HANDICAP
(£24,843. 1m 4f) (19 runners)

C4

501	(14)	001433	WHITECHAPEL 14 (CD,G,S) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 7-9-10	T Ives	89
502	(8)	216034	ROYAL SCIMITAR 113 (D,G) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 3-8-9	T Quinn	85
503	(3)	641045	KORAIBI 28 (D,F) (B Vocal) C Brittain 3-8-7	M Henry (5)	89
504	(19)	5420	DATO STAR 14 (K Rilee, Mrs M Gulbine & J Donald) J Jefferson 4-9-8	K Fallon	90
505	(13)	4-0-0024	TIME FOR ACTION 9 (G) (Mrs G Smith) M Tompkins 3-9-4	P Robinson	86
506	(11)	01-61	INDIGO TIME 29 (D,6,S) (T Neill) P Cole 3-9-3	W Carson	91
507	(17)	206134	FOUNDRY LANE 66 (D,BF,F,S) (A Sharrad) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-2	K Darley	93
508	(15)	302210	PROTON 49 (D,F,G,S) (Parsian War Pints) R Akehurst 5-9-1	R Cochrane	92
509	(2)	233406	ARTIC COURIER 29 (D,F) (Britam Promotions Ltd) D Cosgrove 4-9-1	D Biggs (5)	91
510	(5)	512408	BAYRAK 29 (D,G,S) (A Reid) M Ryan 5-8-9	R Hughes	87
511	(12)	101550	JOHNS ACT 49 (D,G,S) (J Brown Ltd) D Haydn Jones 5-8-8	J Reid	88
512	(17)	63-4322	BEAUCHAMP JADE 12 (E Penser) H Candy 3-8-4	W Newnes	96
513	(7)	231000	ASKERN 14 (F) (Mrs M O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 4-8-4	A Mackay	95
514	(4)	60121-3	REIMEI 29 (D,F,G) (I Goldsmith) R Akehurst 6-8-3	L Dettori	92
515	(18)	226-001	SECRET SERVICE 53 (D,F) (G Reen) C Thornton 3-8-2	G Duffield	92
516	(10)	6-06111	SNOW PRINCESS 8 (D,F,S) (Lord Weinstock) Lord Huntingdon 3-8-2 (6ex)	R Hills	95
517	(16)	423235	MENTALASANYTHIN 40 (D,F,G,S) (M O'Donnell) A Bailey 6-8-0	Iona Wands (7)	89
518	(13)	3956900	WENTBRIDGE LAD 28 (F,F,G,S) (J Pugh) P Evans 5-7-12	R Adams	92
519	(6)	240216	LORD HASTIE 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Bendall) C Thornton 7-7-9	J Quinn	93

BETTING: 4-1 Snow Princess, 7-1 Reimei, 8-1 Beauchamp Jade, Dato Star, Indigo Time, Whitechapel, 10-1 Foundry Lane, Royal Scimitar, 14-1 Proton, 16-1 Korambi, 20-1 Time For Action, 25-1 others

1994: SAXON MAID 3-8-9 J Weaver (16-1) L Cumani 24 ran

FORM FOCUS

WHITECHAPEL 2nd 3rd to Phantom Gold in group III Persimmon St Simon Stakes at Newbury (1m 4f, good to soft). DATO STAR 7l 2nd to General Assembly in maiden at Chester (1m 5f 89yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. TIME FOR ACTION 2l 2nd to Renoir in handicap at York (1m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start with ROYAL SCIMITAR 14lb better off 3¾l 4th. INDIGO TIME beat Lucayan Sunshine 3l in handicap at Ascot (1m 4f, soft) with REIMEI (8lb better off) 14l 3rd, ARTIC COURIER (9lb better off) 3l 6th and BAYRAK (6lb better off) tailed off last. FOUNDRY LANE 2l 3rd to Sanmartino in Tote Ebor Handicap at York (1m 6f, good to firm) on penultimate start with ASKERN (9lb better off) 13l 9th and WHITECHAPEL 5l 13th. BEAUCHAMP JADE 2l 2nd to Al Widyan in conditions race at Leicester (1m 4f, firm). SNOW PRINCESS beat Ludorama 1¾l in handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm).

Selection: TIME FOR ACTION

4.00 COALITE DRAGON HANDICAP
(£8,285: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

C4

1	(1)	031600	BLAZE AWAY 21 (D,F,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 4-9-10	L Dettori	89
2	(2)	601-545	TARDUDANT 211J (C,D,BF,F,G) (G Farndon) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-7	A Culhane	90
3	(6)	212102	ISTABRAQ 18 (F,G) (H Al Maktoum) J Gosden 3-9-5	W Carson	92
4	(11)	2303-41	OLD RED 21 (F,G) (A Flannigan) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-3	L Charnock	88
5	(7)	452204	GOOD HAND 15 (CD,F,G) (Mrs M Haggas) J Watts 9-9-1	M Birch	93
6	(14)	122362	SUPREME STAR 16 (F,G) (J Whelan) P Hedger 4-9-1	Dane O'Neill (5)	86
7	(8)	300321	SUGAR MILL 15 (C,F) (C Buckley) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-0	K Darley	87
8	(15)	255245	PARADISE NAVY 18 (C,G) (Elite Racing Club) C Egerton 6-8-11	R Hughes	89
9	(9)	333121	SEA VICTOR 16 (C,D,F,G) (J Abell) J L Harris 3-8-10	P Robinson	86
10	(4)	210104	INCHCAILLOCH 21 (F,G,S) (F Carter) J Ning 6-8-10	G Bardwell	90
11	(5)	352630	THUNDERHEART 16 (D,F) (I Dalgleish) J J O'Neill 4-8-9	G Duffield	91
12	(12)	020022	NON VINTAGE 73 (C,F,G) (A Mann) M Chapman 4-8-9	Martin Dwyer (7)	88
13	(3)	060011	MERIT 2 (G,S) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 3-7-9 (3ex)	J Quinn	89
14	(10)	060513	COLERIDGE 16 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (P Sheeran) J Sheehan 7-7-8	A Mackay	86

BETTING: 9-2 Merit, 5-1 Istabraq, 7-1 Old Red, Sugar Mill, 8-1 Blaze Away, 10-1 Good Hand, Inchcailloch, Sea Victor, Thunderheart, 14-1 Supreme Star, 16-1 Paradise Navy, 20-1 others

1994: SHUJAN 5-8-13 G Carter (3-1) R Akehurst 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

ISTABRAQ neck 2nd to En Vacances in handicap at Newbury (2m, good to soft) with PARADISE NAVY (8lb better off) 13¾l 5th. OLD RED beat Nanton Point 1l in Tote Cesarewitch Handicap at Newmarket (2m 2f, good to firm) with INCHCAILLOCH (4lb better off) 1l 4th and BLAZE AWAY (7lb better off) 3¾l 7th. SUGAR MILL beat NON VINTAGE (2lb better off) neck in handicap here (1m 6f 132yd, good to firm) with GOOD HAND (6lb better off) 5¾l 4th. SEA VICTOR beat SUPREME STAR (1lb better off) short-head in handicap at Nottingham (2m, good to firm) with COLERIDGE (2lb better off) 3l 3rd and THUNDERHEART (8lb better off) 5l 9th. MERIT beat Tremendisio 5l in handicap at Edinburgh (1m 7f, soft).

Selection: ISTABRAQ

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER

1.00 Kilbreet	2.35 Potter's Bay
1.30 Conquering Leader	3.10 See More Business
2.00 General Command	3.40 Buckhouse Boy
	4.10 Lightening Lad

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

1.00 GUY FAWKES HANDICAP CHASE
(£7,303: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

BBC1

1		4/11332-	KIBREET 186 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Emery) P Hobbs 8-12-0	A Maguire	98
2		146572-	RUN UP THE FLAG 201 (F,G,S) (Peel-mell Partners) J Gifford 8-11-12	P Hide	89
3		21115-1	JAMES THE FIRST 28 (D,F,G,S) (B Blenkiron) P Nicholls 7-11-7	A P McCoy	96
4		3PF512-	OLD BRIDGE 238 (G,S) (K Mackenzie) A Turnell 7-11-4	S McNeill	93
5		223411-	PONTYNYSYWEN 189 (B,D,G,S) (J Thomas) D Burchell 7-10-13	D J Burchell	91
6		1112P2	REGAL ROMPER 17 (D,F,GI) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 7-10-11	R Guest	88
7		2154-F2	SAILOR JIM 26 (BF,F,S) (R Perkins) P Dalton 8-10-10	T Jenks	95
8		332401-	URBAN COWBOY 416 (G) (Mrs J Humphreys) C James 8-10-0	M A Fitzgerald	95

Long handicap: Urban Cowboy 9-7.

BETTING: 5-2 James The First, 7-2 Pontynyswen, 5-1 Kibreit, 6-1 Run Up The Flag, 8-1 Old Bridge, 12-1 Sailor Jim, 16-1 others.

1994: COUNTRY LAD 6-11-10 R Dunwoody (7-1) Mrs S Williams 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

KIBREET 7l 2nd of 5 to Big Man in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good to firm) JAMES THE FIRST beat Circulation 9l in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft) OLD BRIDGE 6l 2nd of 3 to Spallington in novice chase here (2m 3f 110yd, heavy) PONTYNYSYWEN completed double best Whippers Delight 11¼l in novice chase at Worcester (2m, good). REGAL ROMPER 4l 2nd of 3 to De Jordan in amateurs handicap at Newcastle (2m 110yd, firm). SAILOR JIM 7l 2nd to Ask The Governor in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, good) URBAN COWBOY beat Moving Out 5l in novice chase at Exeter (2m 3f, good).

Selection: OLD BRIDGE

1.30 TOTE SILVER TROPHY
(Handicap hurdle: £16,503: 2m 4f 110yd) (16 runners)

BBC1

1		2116-P-	HEBRIDEAN 212 (D,G,S) (P Deal) D Nicholson 8-11-10	Mr R Johnson (5)	95
2		322115-	CORAGGIO 385 (D,G,S) (M Gates) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-6	T Jenks	94
3		034215-	HER HONOUR 233 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs A Farrant) M Pipe 6-11-1	J Lower	95
4		221520-	BOLLIN WILLIAM 364 (C,D,S) (Sir Ned Westbrook) M H Easterby 7-11-0	L Wyer	–
5		310212-	CALL MY GUEST 186 (D,G,S) (D Clee) R Peacock 5-10-8	R Guest	92
6		51101-1	SQUIRE SILK 15 (D,F,S) (R Ogden) A Turnell 6-10-8 (3ex)	P Carberry	89
7		111223-	SILVER WEDGE 455 (D,S) (Mrs S Rogers) O Sherwood 4-10-4	J Osborne	91
8		122089-	TOP SPIN 179 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Long) J Jenkins 6-10-4	A P McCoy	98
9		202144-2	NEMURO 21 (C,F,G) (Turf City Racing) D Elsworth

Irish challenger in peak condition for Melbourne Cup

Vintage Crop pleases Weld

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
IN MELBOURNE

A SENSE of optimism over Europe's prospects of landing the Melbourne Cup is not in short supply. Mark Johnston, who trains Double Trigger, has issued words of encouragement since touching down on Wednesday, and Dermot Weld, who arrived from Ireland yesterday morning, was unusually frank about Vintage Crop's chances of winning the race for the second time in three years.

Weld's public utterances in these uncertain circumstances are usually brief and noncommittal. But Ireland's foremost trainer was clearly taken with the condition of Vintage Crop when assessing the horse. "He is in super form," he ventured. "His weight is absolutely spot on; he doesn't need to lose a single kilo."

The message was not lost on local horsemen, who have not heard such emphatic tones on Weld's previous visits. Indeed, there is no doubting Vintage Crop has taken the journey in his stride. His coat shines in the early morning sun and he looks trained to the minute.

The nine-year-old has been demonstrably keen to break free from the sedate paces to which his lad, Dave Phillips, has largely confined him. "It's been nice to see the old horse in this frame of mind," Weld acknowledged. "We are aiming to produce him physically sound and mentally fresh on the day."

Vintage Crop has the appearance of a coiled spring. His presence here is an achievement in itself, given that he has been plagued by injuries throughout his career. Weld indicated the gelding's ailing frame would be regularly massaged by Kate Box, a physiotherapist of high repute. That is par for the course for Vintage Crop, although it was unsettling to hear Jason Weaver, who yesterday morning partnered Double Trigger in a sharp workout over 4½ furlongs, recommend a similar course of treatment for the broad-blazed stayer.

ED BYRNE



Double Trigger comes through his final piece of fast work in preparation for Tuesday's Melbourne Cup

However, the jockey was quick to play down the importance of a muscular disorder across Double Trigger's back. "I noticed it when I rode him on Thursday and it was there again this morning," Weaver said. "I thought it best to recommend the physio even though the horse quickly shrugs it off when he warms up. Otherwise, he is moving well over the ground. His wind is clean and he looks better than when I rode him in France four weeks ago."

With the big race just three days distant, those previously confident about a European victory will not welcome the necessary attentions of Box. Interpreting such developments is difficult; perhaps the best way to gauge the situation is to trail the physiotherapist on Tuesday in the hope that she might strike a bet. Conversely, those wary of the logistical obstacles facing Europe's challengers may now look elsewhere for the winner.

Either way, a peculiar situation is unfolding in the build-up to this A$2 million prize. Seasoned locals are adamant the outcome rests between Double Trigger and Vintage Crop, while the swelling contingent of British visitors, in their efforts to pinpoint the winner, can be found poring frantically over the form of Australia's finest stayers. The scenario makes a refreshing change from the jingoism regularly generated by these international events.

In that respect, vital clues are plentiful today, when no fewer than 12 of the 27 Melbourne Cup acceptors run at Flemington. A feast of top-class racing has been promoted as A$30 Million Day, when 113 horses, with collective earnings of A$28 million, will joust for prize-money of A$1.9 million. No fewer than 22 individual group one winners are on show.

Last year's Melbourne Cup winner, Jeune, is among those engaged in the Mackinnon Stakes over ten furlongs. However, it looks unlikely he will make the cup field on Tuesday. His owner, Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, has intimated at this late stage that his preference is to bypass the historic contest and point instead for the Japan Cup later this month.

A decision must be made today. Lamentable though his absence would be for the host country. Weld and Johnston will silently recognise that the path to the winner's enclosure will not be so steep.

WINCANTON

THUNDERER
1.25 Storm Run
1.55 Gospel
2.30 Atours
3.00 Wise Approach
3.30 Ever Smile
4.00 Zajira
4.30 Charlie Parrot

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.25 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,163: 2m) (8 runners)

1 002- DECIDE YOURSELF 172 (D Wilson) T Thomson Jones 5-11-0 ... G McCourt –
2 5-8 MEAD COURT 29 (M Worcester) N Chance 5-11-0 ... R Davis –
3 0/0 PAULA'S BOY 15 (D Elsworth) D Elsworth 5-11-0 ... P Holley –
4 1-22 STORM RUN 43 (G) (J Agha) P Nicholls 5-11-0 ... J R Kavanagh [88]
5 5-08 FLY IN AMBER 7 (C ffrench Davis) D ffrench Davis 4-10-9 ... N Mann –
6 0050- GUINDA 224 (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-9 ... C Maude –
7 0/P60P-3 MY BOOKS ARE BEST 10 (M Green) H Rowsell 6-10-9 ... A Tory –
8 0/056- WHAT'S THE JOKE 171 (J Tuck) J Tuck 6-10-9 ... I Lawrence 87

BETTING: 4-5 Storm Run, 4-1 Decide Yourself, 5-1 Mead Court, 7-1 Paula's Boy, 8-1 Guinda, 16-1 others.

1994: LIGHTENING LAD 6-11-0 G McCourt (7-1) J King 20 ran

1.55 EBF TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) MARES NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £3,496: 2m) (5 runners)

1 5326-52 EMRAL MISS 14 (Mrs J Bennett) C Popham 7-11-0 ... T Dascombe (5) [88]
2 00F561- GOSPEL 182 (F,S) (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0 ... C Maude –
3 06/P66P- LYRICAL SEAL 220 (B) (Mrs J Deming) D ffrench Davis 5-11-0 ... P Holley –
4 563000- OUR NIKKI 201 (P Rodford) P Rodford 5-11-0 ... S Burrough –
5 4P000-4 SABEEL 15 (P Slip) T George 5-11-0 ... R Davis 79

BETTING: 2-5 Gospel, 7-2 Emral Miss, 8-1 Our Nikki, 12-1 Sabeel, 20-1 Lyrical Seal

1994: PRINCESS HOTPOT 6-10-10 M Perrett (9-4) Miss H Knight 7 ran

2.30 TANGLEFOOT ELITE HURDLE C4 (Grade II: £13,393: 2m) (3 runners)

1 32260-1 ATOURS 21 (D,F,G,S) (Oh So Rosie Partnership) D Elsworth 7-11-2 ... P Holley [88]
2 1522-31 CLIFTON BEAT 15 (D,G,S) (D O'Connor) P Hobbs 4-11-2 ... G McCourt 76
3 131226- ABSALOM'S LADY 235 (D,G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Racing) D Elsworth 7-11-1 ... S McNeill 86

BETTING: 4-5 Atours, 5-2 Absalom's Lady, 11-4 Clifton Beat.

1994: VALFINET 7-11-2 R Dunwoody (9-2) M Pipe 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

ATOURS beat Flying Eagle 8l in 4-runner conditions hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm). CLIFTON BEAT beat Wishing 1¾l in 8-runner conditions hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). ABSALOM'S LADY 16¾l 6th of 14 to Alderbrook in Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft) with ATOURS (4lb better off) ½l 7th.
Selection: ATOURS

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Sherwood	10	27	37.0	J Lower	6	19	31.6
M Pipe	34	121	28.1	T Dascombe	3	14	21.4
R Alner	10	50	20.0	G McCourt	6	39	15.4
N Twiston-Davies	8	45	17.8	J R Kavanagh	4	31	12.9
K Bailey	8	51	15.7	P Holley	9	82	11.0

3.00 BADGER BEER CHASE C4 (Limited handicap: £13,940: 3m 1f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 3P0-423 GRANGE BRAKE 13 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 9-12-0 ... C Maude 94
2 1/12521- BRACKENFIELD 159 (D,F,G,S) (T and J Curry) P Nicholls 9-11-11 ... J R Kavanagh 90
3 23134/2 BAS DE LAINE 21 (F,G) (R Sids Ltd) D Sherwood 9-11-10 ... M Richards 93
4 211-11F WISE APPROACH 10 (C,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs S Gee) K Bailey 8-11-6 ... S McNeill [88]
5 2U-1U26 TUG OF PEACE 10 (F,G,S) (P Richardson) G Balding 8-10-11 ... B Clifford 93
6 33-1135 MUTUAL TRUST 21 (D,F,G,S) (M Bowling) P Hobbs 11-10-8 ... G Tormey (3) 93

BETTING: 5-2 Bas De Laine, 3-1 Brackenfield, Wise Approach, 5-1 Grange Brake, 8-1 Mutual Trust, 10-1 Tug Of Peace

1994: LUSTY LIGHT 8-10-7 W Marston (9-4 jt-fav) Mrs J Pitman 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

GRANGE BRAKE 12l 2nd of 3 to James Pigg in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good to firm) penultimate start. BRACKENFIELD beat Whatagale 15l in 4-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good) in May. BAS DE LAINE 9l 2nd of 9 to General Rusty in handicap chase at Kempton (3m, good) with MUTUAL TRUST (4lb better off) 12¾l 5th. WISE APPROACH, completed double, beat Romany Creek 1½l in 6-runner handicap chase here (3m 5f, good to firm) on penultimate start. TUG OF PEACE 1¼l 2nd of 5 to Stop The Waller in a handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. MUTUAL TRUST short-head and head 3rd of 8 to Straight Talk in handicap chase at Chepstow (3m, good) penultimate start with GRANGE BRAKE (3lb better off) 8l 4th.
Selection: WISE APPROACH

3.30 BATCOMBE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,385: 2m 6f) (6 runners)

1 /11-314 EVER SMILE 68 (BF,F) (D L'Estrange) M Pipe 8-11-11 ... J Lower 92
2 52412P- JADIDH 239 (CD,F,G,S) (D Hazzard) C Wildman 7-11-10 ... D Salter (5) 96
3 13-U303 BLASKET HERO 9 (B,D,F,G) (Mrs S Williams) Mrs S Williams 7-11-1 ... S Lyons (3) [88]
4 332146 GUNMAKER 9 (G,S) (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 6-10-2 ... Mr J L Llewellyn 98
5 05-5052 JONJAS CHUDLEIGH 17 (G) (Miss H Johns) W G Turner 8-10-2 ... C Maude 96
6 0P61-P BLAKE'S WONDER 33 (B,CD,F) (Sextet Partnership) R Alner 5-10-0 ... P Carey (7) 75

Long handicap: Blake's Wonder 9-4.

BETTING: Evens Ever Smile, 4-1 Blasket Hero, 6-1 Jadidh, 7-1 Jonjas Chudleigh, 10-1 Gunmaker, Blake's Wonder

1994: BORROWED AND BLUE 4-10-5 Peter Hobbs (5-2) P Hobbs 5 ran

4.00 K J PIKE & SONS HANDICAP CHASE (£5,173: 2m 5f) (5 runners)

1 23/1243- CHANGE THE ACT 390 (F,G,S) (C Foley) Miss V Williams 10-11-10 ... R Davis [88]
2 15-3304 GREEN ISLAND 23 (F,G,S) (J Moloney) A Dunn 9-11-8 ... C Maude 94
3 211121 ZAJIRA 10 (F,G) (F Bush) P Eccles 5-10-11 ... M Richards 92
4 F22113- LARRY'S LORD 155 (CD,F,S) (Marten Julian Ltd) P Nicholls 6-10-8 ... J R Kavanagh 91
5 0323-03 CONTI D'ESTRUVAL 14 (G) (B Keay) G Balding 5-10-5 ... B Clifford 85

BETTING: 6-4 Zajira, 2-1 Conti d'Estruval, 3-1 Larry's Lord, 8-1 Change The Act, 12-1 Green Island.

1994: RABA RIVA 9-12-0 G McCourt (15-8 fav) J Spearing 5 ran

4.30 TRIPLEPRINT INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,319: 2m) (10 runners)

1 5 BRANSKI 7 (Mrs B Nicholls) P Nicholls 4-11-2 ... J R Kavanagh –
2 CHARLIE PARROT (Mrs A Farrant) M Pipe 5-11-2 ... J Lower –
3 0 EMPERORS WOOD 56 (Moonraker Racing) P Hayward 4-11-2 ... N Mann –
4 0- KNIGHTSBRIDGE SCOT 164 (Knightsbridge BC) N Babbage 4-11-2 ... S McNeill –
5 0 NDABA 15 (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-2 ... M Keighley (7) –
6 SMART LORD (J Bosley) J Bosley 4-11-2 ... M Bosley –
7 0 SOLO VOLUMES 15 (M Green) H Rowsell 6-11-2 ... A Tory –
8 5 SOUTHSEA SCANDALS 29 (P Trant) M Channon 4-11-2 ... P Holley –
9 INDIAN CROWN (P Buckley) N Thomson 5-10-11 ... I Lawrence –
10 0 MAENAD 15 (Exors of late Mrs C Robinson) D ffrench Davis 4-10-11 ... A Procter (3) –

BETTING: 9-4 Charlie Parrot, 3-1 Branski, 4-1 Southsea Scandals, 5-1 Ndaba, 12-1 Knightsbridge Scot, 14-1 Solo Volumes, 16-1 others.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER
1.05 Daily Starlight. 1.35 Sounds Golden. 2.05 Silver Groom. 2.40 Far Senior. 3.15 Southolt. 3.45 Blessed Oliver. 4.15 Some Toddler.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.05 FIREWORK NIGHT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£3,355: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1 1213 ALLTIME DANCER 15 (F,G) O Sherwood 11-10 ... G Bradley
2 01 OCEAN HAWK 7 (D,F) N Twiston-Davies 11-10 ... S Joynes (7)
3 1 VOLUNTEER 21 (D,F) R O'Sullivan 11-7 ... B Powell
4 BIRTHDAY BOY 47F J Jenkins 11-3 ... R Supple
5 F DAILY STARLIGHT 21 Miss G Kelleway 11-3 ... L Reynolds (7)
6 5 HAYA YA KEFAAH 15 N Babbage 11-3 ... W Humphreys
7 POINTER 16F Mrs P Dutfield 11-3 ... A McCabe
8 0 SHARED 11F M Madgwick 11-3 ... D Morris

2-1 Volunteer, 9-4 Alltime Dancer, 5-1 Ocean Hawk, Daily Starlight, 8-1 others.

1.35 BONFIRE PARTY NOVICES CHASE (£4,410: 3m 110yd) (4)

1 23-U EQUITY PLAYER 10 (F,G,S) R Curtis 10-11-3 ... D Morris
2 4334 GILBERT 22 (F) D Carey 7-11-3 ... B Powell
3 3-P0 SOUNDS GOLDEN 15 J White 7-11-3 ... G Bradley
4 P6 TOMMY-GUN 17 R Rowe 8-11-3 ... T Grantham

2-1 Equity Player, 9-4 Gilbert, 5-2 Sounds Golden, 5-1 Tommy-Gun

2.05 CATESBY HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,947: 2m 110yd) (6)

1 32P- SILVER GROOM 16F (D,S) R Akehurst 5-11-10 ... S Ryan (7)
2 2-11 BURES 10 (V,D,F,G) M Tompkins 4-11-5 ... B Powell
3 000- MISTER DRUM 182 (D,G,S) M Wilkinson 6-11-4 ... R Supple
4 P-13 SQUIRE YORK 29 (D,BF,F,S) Mrs L Murphy 5-11-0 ... G Bradley
5 1144 NADJATI 15 (B,D,F) D Gandolfo 6-10-11 ... Sophie Mitchell (5)
6 F6-2 BOOKCASE 15 (D,F,G) D Elsworth 8-10-10 ... A McCabe

7-4 Silver Groom, 7-2 Bookcase, 9-2 Nadjati, 5-1 Bures, 8-1 Mister Drum, Squire York

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Nicholls, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%; J Gifford, 24 from 118, 20.3%; C Brooks, 6 from 37, 16.2%; O Sherwood, 6 from 40, 15.0%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: A Dicken, 3 winners from 16 rides, 18.8%; Peter Hobbs 5 from 28, 17.9%; L Harvey, 3 from 18, 16.7%; B Powell, 5 from 35, 14.3%; T Grantham, 3 from 26, 11.5%. Only qualifiers.

2.40 GUNPOWDER PLOT HANDICAP CHASE (£7,068: 3m 110yd) (4)

1 -141 STRAIGHT TALK 7 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 8-11-10 ... G Bradley
2 1-21 STAUNCH RIVAL 23 (D,F,G,S) G Thorner 8-11-8 ... B Powell
3 -411 FAR SENIOR 7 (CD,F,G) K Bailey 9-11-7 ... J Magee (3)
4 33P- SPIKEY 186 (D,G) J Jenkins 9-11-2 ... E Murphy

Evens Straight Talk, 2-1 Far Senior, 3-1 Staunch Rival, 14-1 Spikey

3.15 PARLIAMENT HANDICAP CHASE (£7,405: 2m 4f 110yd) (3)

1 43-4 SOUTHOLT 15 (F,G,S) G Hubbard 7-11-13 ... K Gaule (3)
2 1-11 DEXTRA DOVE 10 (D,F,G,S) S Earle 8-10-7 ... B Powell
3 P-P2 YOUNG POKEY 9 (C,F,G) O Sherwood 10-10-2 ... G Bradley

4-6 Dextra Dove, 5-2 Southolt, 7-2 Young Pokey

3.45 SURREY RACING NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,723: 2m 6f) (7)

1 3663 SCRIPT 18 (F) J Jenkins 4-11-10 ... G Bradley
2 63-1 STORMTRACKER 147 (F) C Weedon 6-11-7 ... Peter Hobbs
3 1 BLESSED OLIVER 30 (F) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 ... S Joynes (7)
4 2P22 POPPETS PET 15 (F,G) J Mullins 8-10-11 ... Sophie Mitchell (5)
5 P-25 RENT DAY 24 J Mullins 6-10-0 ... S Righton (7)
6 05-5 COULIN LOCH 24 M Wilkinson 6-10-0 ... R Supple
7 025- NYCHURCH 191 J Joseph 9-10-0 ... D Skyrme

7-4 Blessed Oliver, 2-1 Stormtracker, 5-1 Script, 7-1 Poppets Pet, 12-1 others

4.15 SANDOWN STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£2,040: 2m 110yd) (12)

1 12 NEAT FEAT 29 (F) D Elsworth 4-11-9 ... A McCabe
2 ERMYNS PET G L Moore 4-11-2 ... E Murphy
3 3- FOXTROT ROMEO 254 C Brooks 5-11-2 ... G Bradley
4 MYWEND'S C Brooks 5-11-2 ... Mr E James
5 PEE TEE CEE R O'Sullivan 4-11-2 ... B Powell
6 RAVUS J O'Donoghue 5-11-2 ... A Dicken
7 ROYAL DADDA Mrs I McKie 5-11-2 ... L Harvey
8 SOME TODDLER J Gifford 5-11-2 ... L Aspell (7)
9 5- UNCLE BERT 256 Mrs M McCourt 5-11-2 ... R Supple
10 0-3 GEMINI MIST 10 Mrs P Dutfield 4-10-11 ... Michael Hurd (7)
11 F-0 HILDENS MEMORY 29 J Long 5-10-11 ... Mr T McCarthy
12 4- MRS BARTY 287 C Weedon 5-10-11 ... Peter Hobbs

5-2 Neat Feat, 4-1 Foxtrot Romeo, 9-2 Some Toddler, 5-1 Mywend's, 8-1 Mrs Barty, 12-1 Uncle Bert, Pee Tee Cee, 16-1 others.

□ Lavinia Fontana (Giovanni Forte), trained by John Dunlop, faces nine rivals in the £25,816 group three Premio Chiusura (7f) at San Siro today. The main dangers are likely to be the Lord Huntingdon-trained pair, Sharp Prod and Prince Of India.

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER
1.20 Bellroi. 1.50 Mr Bureaucrat. 2.20 Stoney Burke. 2.50 Wordsmith. 3.20 Father Sky. 3.50 Elite Reg. 4.20 Silent Guns.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.20 BILL LOVE MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £2,484: 2m) (16 runners)

1 24- BELLROI 371 M Tompkins 4-11-0 ... D Bridgwater
2 210/ BLACK ARROW 560P (S) D O'Brien 8-11-0 ... Major O Ellwood
3 03 CADES BAY 32 N Twiston-Davies 4-11-0 ... D Walsh (5)
4 /30 CAPTAIN STOCKFORD 35 P Wegmann 8-11-0 ... S Fowler (7)
5 R- DONTFORGET INSIGHT 51F C Brooks 4-11-0 ... D Gallagher
6 FAIR FLYER 50F P Bevan 6-11-0 ... T Eley
7 HAWKER HUNTER 390F C Egerton 4-11-0 ... J Railton
8 HAZARD A GUESS 34F Mrs J Ramsden 5-11-0 ... R Garritty
9 00- PERIROYAL 222 W Clay 5-11-0 ... –
10 30- REVEREND BROWN 238 O Sherwood 5-11-0 ... DOUBTFUL
11 SHAHIK 240F J O'Shea 5-11-0 ... D Bentley
12 0 TOP SLICE 21 W Mann 7-11-0 ... Mr O Verco
13 TRISQUARE K Bailey 4-11-0 ... W McFarland
14 3 ALL ON 21 J Hetherton 4-10-9 ... D Byrne
15 53- PERHAPS 224 Miss H Knight 4-10-9 ... G F Ryan (5)
16 PRIDE OF HEIGHTS 409F M Sheppard 4-10-9 ... P McLoughlin

3-1 Hazard A Guess, 4-1 Cades Bay, 5-1 Perhaps, 6-1 All On, Hawker Hunter, 8-1 Bellroi, 10-1 Trisquare, 12-1 others

1.50 BILL LOVE MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £2,484: 2m) (16)

1 BONJOUR 205F C Mann 5-11-0 ... J Railton
2 3P-4 CALDERVALE 8 L Barratt 5-11-0 ... T Kent
3 6 EN ATTENDANT 21 (BF) B Hanbury 7-11-0 ... S Keightley
4 LAWFUL LOVE 24F T Donnelly 5-11-0 ... T Eley
5 MASTER SHOWMAN 75F A Carroll 4-11-0 ... –
6 MR BUREAUCRAT M Pipe 6-11-0 ... D Bridgwater
7 1/5- NAUGHTY FUTURE 330 (G,S) J J O'Neill 6-11-0 ... A Roche (3)
8 5-3 NEVER SO BLUE 14 P Bradley 4-11-0 ... B Harding (3)
9 PERSONIMUS 119F J Wilson 5-11-0 ... D Gallagher
10 U- RUSTIC CRAFT 243 Miss L Shally 5-11-0 ... W McFarland
11 P- STORMING ROY 309 A Turnell 5-11-0 ... DOUBTFUL
12 TANSEEQ 173F M Meagher 4-11-0 ... D Byrne
13 0/0 THE BOUNDER 15 (BF,F) O Sherwood 5-11-0 ... J A McCarthy
14 5-6 CARLY-J 140 F Jackson 4-10-9 ... D Leahy
15 3 DELGARTH LADY 21 J Spearing 4-10-9 ... Miss T Spearing (7)
16 PU6- LARKS TAIL 167P P Webber 7-10-9 ... R Bellamy

3-1 Mr Bureaucrat, 4-1 The Bounder, 5-1 Delgarth Lady, 6-1 En Attendant, 7-1 Never So Blue, 8-1 Naughty Future, 10-1 others.

2.20 SCOTCH HILLS HOLSTEINS NOVICES CHASE (£3,599: 3m 2f) (7)

1 U-14 THE BUD CLUB 15 (BF,G) K Bailey 7-11-6 ... W McFarland
2 P0-6 DUKE OF LANCASTER 17 Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0 ... R Bellamy
3 42-4 ELEGANT KING 10 (F,G,S) A Jarvis 6-11-0 ... A Larnach (3)
4 3- FIFTH FUSILIER 432 (B) Miss A Embiricos 8-11-0 ... J Ryan
5 P55- MISTER HOCHBERG 203 (F,S) Mrs V Ward 9-11-0 ... D Parker (3)
6 340- MOBILE MESSENGER 268 (S) T George 7-11-0 ... D Bentley
7 43- STONEY BURKE 344 P Nicholls 6-11-0 ... D Bridgwater

13-8 Stoney Burke, 3-1 Elegant King, 7-2 The Bud Club, 8-1 Duke Of Lancaster, 10-1 Mobile Messenger, 12-1 Fifth Fusilier, 25-1 Mister Hochberg.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doncaster: 1.20 Stop Play. Newcastle: 2.45 The Boiler White. Uttoxeter: 2.50 Jymjam Johnny. Wincanton: 3.30 Blake's Wonder.

2.50 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,677: 2m) (11)

1 213- TULU 42F (D,S) Mrs J Ramsden 4-11-13 ... D Thomas (3)
2 322- HASHAR 226 (D,F) P Wegmann 7-11-11 ... T Eley
3 601- WINN'S PRIDE 33F (D,F,S) R Hollinshead 4-11-5 ... M Martin (5)
4 4-05 CELIBATE 122 (D,S) C Mann 4-11-3 ... Muredach Kelly (3)
5 1F-0 JYMJAM JOHNNY 8 (B,D,S) J J O'Neill 6-10-12 ... A Roche
6 -F34 WINDWARD ARIOM 33 (D,F,G,S) K Burke 9-10-11 ... A Larnach
7 1366 FRANKUS 18 (D,F,G,S) S Mellor 6-10-8 ... Chris Webb
8 42-6 MUST BE MAGICAL 2 (CD,F,S) P Bradley 7-10-7 ... B Harding
9 63/ KALZARI 739 (D,G) A Carroll 10-10-6 ... D Leahy
10 56-5 KELLY MAC 18 (D,S) D O'Brien 5-10-3 ... O Burrows (5)
11 5/11 WORDSMITH 7 (D,G,S) J L Harris 5-10-2 ... P McLoughlin

7-2 Winn's Pride, 4-1 Tulu, 5-1 Wordsmith, 6-1 Celibate, 7-1 Hashar, 8-1 Kalzari, Frankus, 10-1 Must Be Magical, 12-1 others.

3.20 ST MODWEN CLASSIC NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: £7,810: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 111 THE LAST FLING 7 (D,F,G) Mrs S Smith 5-11-4 ... R Garritty
2 11-2 EXTERIOR PROFILES 28 (BF,F) N T-Davies 5-11-0 ... D Bridgwater
3 2-11 FATHER SKY 13 (F) O Sherwood 4-11-0 ... J A McCarthy
4 F25- GAROLO 232 C Brooks 5-11-0 ... D Gallagher
5 2-12 PORPHYRIOS 31 (BF,S) K Bailey 4-11-0 ... W McFarland
6 32P- ROSMARINO 259 W Jenks 5-11-0 ... J Railton
7 0-13 STAR OF DAVID 10 (G) Miss A Embiricos 7-11-0 ... J Ryan

9-4 Father Sky, 3-1 Exterior Profiles, 7-2 The Last Fling, 6-1 Star Of David, 8-1 Porphyrios, 10-1 Garolo, 12-1 Rosmarino

3.50 MASON RICHARDS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,534: 3m 2f) (9)

1 3R0- CAMELOT KNIGHT 194 (S) N Twiston-Davies 9-12-0 ... Mr M Rimell
2 1PP- URANUS COLLONGES 196 (D,G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-11-13 ... F Leahy
3 1251 ELITE REG 44 (V,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-11-12 ... D Bridgwater
4 1U-4 NO MORE TRIX 147 (BF,F,G,S) T Tate 9-11-9 ... R Garritty
5 314- SUNLEY BAY 194 (G,S) P Nicholls 9-11-9 ... Guy Lewis (3)
6 10-6 HILLWALK 35 (F,G,S) R Curtis 9-11-9 ... D Walsh (5)
7 65/ STUNNING STUFF 589 (F,G) T George 10-11-4 ... D Bentley
8 20/ ANDROS PRINCE 584 (G,S) Miss A Embiricos 10-10-4 ... J Ryan
9 U-02 TIME ENOUGH 10 (S) C Brooks 6-10-0 ... D Gallagher

5-2 Elite Reg, 7-2 Uranus Collonges, 6-1 Camelot Knight, No More Trix, 7-1 Sunley Bay, 8-1 Hillwalk, 10-1 Stunning Stuff, 12-1 others

4.20 BOCM PAULS STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,691: 2m) (16)

1 22-1 BEGGARS BANQUET 13 (F) P Beaumont 5-11-7 ... B Grattan (7)
2 ALPHA LEATHER L Grassick 4-11-0 ... Mr J Grassick
3 0- ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT 182 F Lloyd 5-11-0 ... Gary Lyons
4 DRAKESTONE R Brown 4-11-0 ... P McLoughlin
5 2 GONE FOR LUNCH 22 Miss H Knight 4-11-0 ... G F Ryan (5)
6 GREG'S PROFILES N Twiston-Davies 4-11-0 ... D Walsh (5)
7 GRUSHKO T George 5-11-0 ... Mr R Thornton (7)
8 330- ICE COLD IN ALEX 189 W Jenks 4-11-0 ... R Bellamy
9 JUST A GUESS J J O'Neill 4-11-0 ... A Roche (3)
10 SELDOM BUT SEVERE E Bilard 5-11-0 ... D Parker (3)
11 4 SILENT GUNS 15 C Egerton 6-11-0 ... J A McCarthy
12 SWARF 189P S Brookshaw 5-11-0 ... J Railton
13 2-0 TAKE COVER 147 (BF) M Tompkins 4-11-0 ... D Gallagher
14 THE GREY FRIAR Miss H Knight 6-11-0 ... Mr J Culloty (7)
15 0- THE NAUGHTY VICAR 219 S Mellor 5-11-0 ... Chris Webb (5)
16 0- MILLY LE MOSS 322 R Eckley 6-10-9 ... V Slattery

3-1 Beggars Banquet, 7-2 Take Cover, 4-1 Greg's Profiles, 5-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Mann, 5 winners from 11 runners, 45.5%; S Brookshaw, 5 from 14, 35.7%; C Egerton, 6 from 17, 35.3%; M Tompkins, 5 from 16, 31.3%; M Pipe, 40 from 139, 28.8%.

JOCKEYS: J Railton, 8 winners from 48 rides, 16.7%; P McLoughlin, 3 from 19, 15.8%; D Byrne, 3 from 20, 15%; R Supple, 9 from 65, 13.8%; D Gallagher, 8 from 60, 13.3%

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Doncaster

Going: good to firm, good in places

12.50 (7f) 1, Wahiba Sands (W Carson, 6-1), 2, Private Song (8-1), 3, Marigliano (10-1). Lituus 4-1 fav 18 ran. ½l, 1¼l. J Dunlop. Tote: £7.50; £2.30, £3.70, £6.90. DF: £43.50. Trio: £277.40. CSF: £60.57.

1.20 (7f) 1, Jackson Hill (T Sprake, 4-1 fav), 2, Kerry Ring (9-2), 3, Pasternak (9-1). 17 ran. 1¼l, 1½l. R Charlton. Tote: £4.70; £1.90, £1.80, £9.00. DF: £7.70. Trio: £42.70. CSF: £23.56. High Atlas (10-1), withdrawn not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 5p in pound.

1.50 (6f) 1, Miss Riviera (M Hills, 9-2), 2, Green Barries (9-1), 3, Major Quality (14-1). Attarikh 7-2 fav. 20 ran. NR: Lead Him On, Sharp Pearl. ½l, 3l. G Wragg. Tote: £7.70; £3.10, £2.60, £10.20. DF: £41.50. Trio: £419.90. CSF: £55.26.

2.20 (1m 6f 132yd) 1, Chief Bee (K Darley, 5-4 fav), 2, Ahla (7-4); 3, Doddington Flyer (20-1). 7 ran. 4l, 6l. J Dunlop. Tote: £2.20; £1.40, £1.50. DF: £1.70. CSF: £3.76.

2.50 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, Sue's Artiste (M Hills, 3-1), 2, Strutting (4-1); 3, Quivira (14-1). Mountains Of Mist 6-4 fav. 7 ran. 2½l, 2½l. B Hills. Tote: £3.70; £1.60, £2.40. DF: £6.20. CSF: £14.93.

3.20 (5f) 1, Polly Golightly (R Cochrane, 7-1), 2, Music Gold (9-1); 3, Dande Flyer (13-8 fav). 11 ran. Sh hd, 2l. B Smart. Tote: £10.80; £2.40, £2.60, £1.50. DF: £44.30. Trio: £32.50. CSF: £67.89. Tricast: £141.32.

3.50 (1m) 1, Brighstone (W Ryan, 6-4 fav), 2, La Volta (8-1); 3, Corporal Nym (7-2). 6 ran. ½l, 1l. H Cecil. Tote: £2.40; £1.60, £3.10. DF: £14.20. CSF: £13.12.

4.20 (7f) 1, Charlie Sillett (M Hills, 9-1, Thunderer's nap); 2, Starry Eyed (7-1); 3, Super Benz (16-1); 4, Winsome Wooster (20-1). Mister Fire Eyes 9-2 fav. 21 ran. NR: Never Explain. 1½l, ¾l. B Hills. Tote: £10.80; £2.90, £1.90, £5.30, £6.00. DF: £45.80. Trio: £723.30. CSF: £70.04. Tricast: £928.94.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £13,762.97 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £157.60. Quadpot: £17.40.

Uttoxeter

Going: good

1.10 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Apachee Flower (A P McCoy, 100-30); 2, Tilty (2-1 fav); 3, Hag's Way (7-1). 8 ran. NR: Buster. 6l, 10l. H Howe. Tote: £3.40; £1.20, £1.20, £1.90. DF: £3.50. Trio: £8.10. CSF: £9.29.

1.40 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Uncle Keeny (M Dwyer, 8-11 fav); 2, Finesse The King (9-4); 3, Corn Exchange (10-1). 7 ran. NR: Edina. 2½l, dist. J J O'Neill. Tote: £1.50; £1.30, £1.80. DF: £1.80. CSF: £3.03.

2.10 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Springtime Affair (Mr R Johnson, 8-1), 2, Belindoo (7-2 fav); 3, Desert President (10-1). 14 ran. NR: Full Quiver, Palace Parade. 1l, 9l. Mrs N Macauley. Tote: £7.90; £2.30, £1.80, £2.00. DF: £93.70. Trio: £69.50. CSF: £35.43.

2.40 (2m hdle) 1, Newhall Prince (T Eley, 7-1); 2, Valisky (16-1); 3, Dark Nightingale (8-11 fav). 13 ran. 8l, 2½l. A Streeter. Tote: £8.10; £1.80, £3.00, £1.30. DF: £33.70. Trio: £75.50. CSF: £107.53. Tricast: £164.13.

3.10 (2m 5f ch) 1, Harwell Lad (Mr R Nuttall, 10-11 fav); 2, Rivage Bleu (10-1); 3, Long Reach (7-2). 7 ran. 20l, 14l. R Alner. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £4.20. DF: £6.20. CSF: £9.65.

3.40 (2m ch) 1, Large Action (J Osborne, 2-7 fav); 2, Spinning Steel (10-1); 3, Storming Run (66-1). 6 ran. NR: Mr President. 4l, 5l. O Sherwood. Tote: £1.30; £1.30, £1.60. DF: £2.30. CSF: £3.83.

4.10 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Runaway Pete (D Bridgwater, 13-8 fav); 2, Gone By (7-1); 3, Barton Santa (7-1). 7 ran. NR: Johns The Boy, Lien de Famille. 7l, 12l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.20; £1.70, £2.50. DF: £5.50. Trio: £20.10. CSF: £11.92. Tricast: £51.63.

Placepot: £4.80. Quadpot: £6.60.

Hexham

Going: good to firm

1.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, Misti Hunter (R Guest, 2-1), 2, Two For One (4-7 fav); 3, Aylesbury Lad (16-1). 4 ran. 14l, dist. Miss M Milligan. Tote: £2.70. DF: £1.30. CSF: £3.44.

2.00 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, George Ashford (A S Smith, 11-10 fav); 2, Emerald Charm (4-1); 3, Heddon Haugh (33-1). 9 ran. 6l, ¾l. K Morgan. Tote: £1.50; £1.20, £1.10, £4.30. DF: £3.60. Trio: £10.90. CSF: £5.65.

2.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Willie Sparkle (A Watt, 7-4 fav); 2, Live And Let Live (16-1); 3, Heathview (5-2). 8 ran. 20l, 3½l. Mrs S Bradburne. Tote: £2.50; £1.50, £2.80. DF: £26.90. CSF: £22.37.

3.00 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Yacht Club (O Pears, 3-1); 2, Palace River (13-8 fav); 3, Mhemeanles (4-1). 6 ran. 11l, 20l. J Eyre. Tote: £3.10; £2.20, £1.30. DF: £3.90. CSF: £7.98.

3.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Supertop (T Reed, 11-8 jt-fav); 2, Crofton Lake (33-1); 3, Strong Measure (10-1). Sonny-P 11-8 jt-fav. 6 ran. NR: Allimac Nomis. 2½l, 5l. L Lungo. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £4.60. DF: £24.10. CSF: £27.15.

4.00 (2m hdle) 1, Cadeaux Premiere (P Niven, 2-1 fav), 2, Joyrider (9-1); 3, Tashreef (5-1). 7 ran. 1¾l, 7l. Denys Smith. Tote: £2.40; £1.70, £3.40. DF: £22.60. CSF: £18.04.

Placepot: £65.30. Quadpot: £2.10.

□ Dorans Pride and Sound Man run at Navan today. Dorans Pride, winner of the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham in March, runs in the Lismullen Hurdle, while Sound Man takes part in the Fortria EBF Handicap Chase.

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NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER
1.10 Tom Brodie. 1.40 Supertop. 2.15 Keep Your Distance. 2.45 Pink Gin. 3.20 Houghton. 3.55 South Westerly.

GOING: FIRM SIS

1.10 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,071: 2m) (3 runners)

1 00-1 SALVO 28 (D,F) Mrs M Stirk 4-11-5 ... Mr S Swiers
2 0 DARK BUOY 21 B Mactaggart 6-11-0 ... G Lee (3)
3 14-2 TOM BRODIE 45 (BF,S) J Howard Johnson 5-11-0 ... J F Titley

4-7 Tom Brodie, 7-4 Salvo, 14-1 Dark Buoy.

1.40 TOP OF THE NORTH NOVICES CHASE (£2,697: 2m 110yd) (4)

1 4-11 SUPERTOP 1 (D,F,G) L Lungo 7-12-0 ... T Reed
2 U-P4 ANOTHER NICK 21 (F) J Hubbuck 9-11-2 ... B Storey
3 F822 KILLIMOR LAD 7 P Montieth 8-11-2 ... A Dobbin
4 50U- JUST MOLLY 161 W Reed 8-10-11 ... Mr C Bonner

4-6 Supertop, 3-1 Killimor Lad, 8-1 Another Nick, 20-1 Just Molly

2.15 EKBALCO HURDLE (Limited handicap: £4,825: 2m) (5)

1 3-11 STAY AWAKE 7 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-12-0 ... G Lee (3)
2 3122 VAIN PRINCE 7 (B,D,F,G,S) N Tinkler 8-11-5 ... E Husband (5)
3 2U-3 WEAVER GEORGE 149 (D,F,G) J Hellens 5-11-5 ... A Dobbin
4 31-1 ASTRALEON 17 (CD,F,G) R Allan 7-11-4 ... B Storey
5 03P- KEEP YOUR DISTANCE 14F (G) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-2 ... P Niven

2-1 Keep Your Distance, 11-4 Stay Awake, 7-2 Astraleon, 5-1 Vain Prince, 8-1 Weaver George.

2.45 PEATY SANDY HANDICAP CHASE (£4,380: 3m 6f) (4)

1 125- COPPER MINE 154 (F,G,S) O Sherwood 9-11-10 ... P Niven
2 361- PINK GIN 186 (C,F,G,S) M Hammond 8-10-0 ... Mr C Bonner (3)
3 F0-P THE BOILER WHITE 3 (B,F,S) T Thomson Jones 7-10-0 ... J F Titley
4 2623 COUP DE CATHERINE 9 W Barker 9-10-0 ... A Dobbin

4-6 Copper Mine, 5-2 Pink Gin, 6-1 The Boiler White, 25-1 Coup De Catherine.

3.20 SWIFT HANDICAP CHASE (£3,685: 2m 4f) (3)

1 3212 DE JORDAAN 7 (C,F,G) W Cunningham 8-11-10 ... N Smith
2 -123 HOUGHTON 13 (CD,F,G,S) J Howard Johnson 9-11-9 ... J F Titley
3 3P16 SWORD BEACH 7 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 11-11-7 ... P Niven

4-5 De Jordaan, 7-4 Houghton, 5-1 Sword Beach.

3.55 JACKDAW HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,528: 3m) (4)

1 4141 GEORGE ASHFORD 1 (F) K Morgan 5-11-10 ... E Callaghan (7)
2 -411 SOUTH WESTERLY 6 (F,G) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-2 ... P Niven
3 P33- SHAWWELL 157 (C,F,G) J Charlton 8-10-10 ... B Storey
4 -513 TOUGH TEST 7 (F) Mrs J Goodfellow 5-10-6 ... Mr R Hale

4-6 South Westerly, 5-2 George Ashford, 6-1 Shawwell, 8-1 Tough Test

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 23 winners from 95 runners, 24.2%; R Allan, 5 from 27, 18.5%; M Hammond, 14 from 88, 15.9%; W Reed, 7 from 45, 15.6%; J Johnson, 15 from 101, 14.9%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 25 winners from 109 rides, 22.9%; Mr R Hale, 3 from 16, 18.8%; T Reed, 15 from 86, 17.4%; A Dobbin, 9 from 70, 12.9%; B Storey, 14 from 114, 12.3%. Only qualifiers.

□ Taufan's Melody (Ray Cochrane), returns to France today in an attempt to claim another European victory for his trainer, Lady Herries, in the listed £27,545 Grand Prix de la Ville de Nantes (1m 4f). The four-year-old gelding won last time out in the listed Prix du Grand Camp (1m 4f) at Lyon Parilly.

INSTANT PRIZES UP TO £2,200 — LONGEST WORD WINS £5,000



Play £75,000 Scrabble

For the next three weeks, you can play our new £75,000 Scrabble game using the numbers printed in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

The Times Scrabble scratchcard has four games on it, one for each week until November 25. Numbers will be printed in *The Times* everyday. Printed below is the last set of numbers to play Game A in *The Times* only. Numbers for Game B will appear on Monday.

There is a £5,000 jackpot to be won every week when you play our Longest Word game. FORESTALLED, by using letters you reveal from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

There are two ways to play for prizes:

1. Printed below are two numbers which you should scratch off on *The Times* Game A grid on your Scrabble gamecard today.
Do not scratch any other numbers.
By scratching the numbers you will reveal two letters. Using only the letters revealed on Game A, see if you can match any words on the Scrabble board. Each letter you have revealed can only be used once. If you can match a word on the board, you have won a prize and must make a claim today.

2. LONGEST WORD GAME. You can use any combination of the letters revealed this week on *The Sunday Times* Game 1 and *The Times* Game A to make the word FORESTALLED. If you succeed, ring the Scrabble hotline to make a claim for this week's £5,000 prize.

If more than one valid claim is made for a prize, the money will be shared equally among the claimants.

If you did not receive a gamecard call 0171-867 0404, between 9.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

MORE GAME A PRIZE WINNERS
The £1,200 prize (SHANK) was won by: Mr P Dangerfield of Ealing, London. **The £800 prize (WAGON)** was shared by: Mrs N Harrison of Malmesbury, Wiltshire; Mr A Coates of Totland, Isle of Wight; Mr R Allingham of Tonbridge, Kent and Mr P Darby of Hereford. **The £1,200 prize (POACH)** was shared by: Mr G Goddard of Kings Worthy, Hants, Mr D Stacey of Hythe, Southampton; Mr G Edmunds of Carlton, Nottingham and Mr J Van Wyk of Hardwich, Cambs. **The £500 prize (SWAP)** was shared by: Mr P Quli of Walthamstow, London and Mr C Barker of Strensall, York.

THESE ARE THE NUMBERS TO SCRATCH OFF GAME A ON YOUR *TIMES* CARD
116 101

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE
If you reveal all the letters of any word from **Game A** of your Scrabble gamecard, claim your prize by calling the Scrabble hotline on **0171-867 0406** today, between 9.30am and 3pm. Have your gamecard with you when you claim. *Late claims will not be accepted.*

SPEAR'S GAMES

Saturday portrait: Juninho, by Rob Hughes, football correspondent

Entertaining great hopes of Brazilian in Mannion's image

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



He will stand on Teesside this afternoon before a welcoming committee of 30,000 Middlesbrough folk. Those in the highest seats of the new Riverside Stadium had better take field-glasses. For down below, in the centre circle, they will see, and they will hope to cheer for many a day, Juninho, one of the smallest but most appreciable talents in the game of football.

He stands 1.64 metres, a little above 5ft 4in. He scales just over nine stone after a hearty meal. He wears a child's boots. But boy, can Juninho play, and how, in this moment when British football at last admits to widespread humility, it needs to see him.

Juninho is no child. He turned 22 last February, and though a physical lightweight, he has been competing for São Paulo in the Brazilian league where, as his new manager, Bryan Robson, has been witness, the tackles that have attempted to foreshorten even his frame have sometimes been so crude, so cynical, they make David Batty look like a mild English bulldog.

But focus in on the player. At his side when he is introduced today will be Jan Aage Fjortoft, the Norwegian, who said: "We will help him. Not because we want to be Mother Teresas, but we need his quality, we need his personality."

Fjortoft, who arrived with plenty of bulk and muscle, admitted that transition from anywhere to the bustle of the English game is tough. But the Norwegian, the little Brazilian and the demanding Englishman all acknowledge that there are no questions about the size of Juninho's heart, none about his quickness to evade the crude tackles, or about his willingness to make monkeys out of those who would scythe him down.

As a special talent, Juninho wears in the Brazil national team the shirt of shirts, the No 10 formerly the preserve of Pelé. He, now the Sports Minister of Brazil, has called Juninho the finest talent in the modern game. So has Mario Zagalo, who, associated with Brazil for 36 years and through four World Cup-winning teams, astonished even his own countrymen when, 18 months ago, he handed that shirt to this player.

"Who's the little boy wearing the No 10?" Dunga, the Schwarzenegger of Brazilian football and the national captain, asked. An hour and a half later, after Juninho's inauguration in Brazil's colours, Dunga had the grace to go down on his knees, to tell Juninho that now he saw what the veteran Zagalo saw, that he would never doubt his right or his ability again.

Taken in dressing-room jest, it was of course exaggerated. But Juninho himself is prone to that. When the media pushed and prodded him about his diminutive size when first Juninho visited the docklands stadium to where Middlesbrough have relocated, this Tom Thumb figure, dressed for the first time in Middlesbrough red, stuck out his Bruce Forsyth chin and said determinedly: "I'm two inches bigger than Maradona."

> **'He wants to be the best player in the world and he does not fear the biting wind on Teesside'**

The little liar. At full stretch he may be a shade *taller* than Diego Maradona. But Argentina's maestro has the muscular hulk of a bull; Juninho has the sinewy frame of a whippet. He relies on fleetness, courage, and on bold imagination to outwit the body-wreckers.

He wants to become the best player in the world. No equivocation, no doubt. He does not fear the biting northerly wind, and he counters that he will bring plenty of gloves, coats and scarves. He swears that, though samba and *sertaneja* [a Latin-American form of country music] are the core of what moves him, football is a sport best played in the cold.

He could have fooled us, for seemingly ever since Charles Miller, a Scottish student, took a ball out to São Paulo a century ago, the British have wondered how they would ever get it back off these gifted people, these marvellous improvisers.

Robson has paid £4.75 million, a Brazilian record, to pair the Latin continent's bewitching elf with the closest these islands has in that age group, Nick Barmby. For that money he lands Osvaldo Giroldo Junior — for that is his christened name; Juninho, meaning little boy, is the obvious nickname. The family comes too, for the greatest challenge to this player's integration into such a foreign clime is that he never left the modest family home in São Paulo's East End location of Parque São Lucas. There, with his father, Osvaldo Giroldo Sr, his mother, Lucia, and sister, Gisele, he was never allowed to think of himself as a star. Such is the close-knit community of this working-class, pollution-ridden sector of São Paulo that the player whose earnings have suddenly rocketed fivefold (reportedly to £13,000 per week) would never be allowed to increase the size of his head.

What are the British, who have lost the feel for their game, expecting from him? Those who witnessed the Umbro Cup last June were immediately captivated by this player, who drew particular attention from Barry Venison.

Injured at the time, and thus out of the England squad, Venison gave the benefit of his expertise on television. "We need David Batty to upset them," he warned of the Brazilians. True to form Batty did try to put his mark on Juninho. It was England's undoing. Twice the stretcher came on for Juninho. Twice Juninho trotted back onto the field, a little sparrow with a big constitution. He turned the match, first with a sorcerer's free kick that swerved over the defensive wall in the manner even Brazilians thought was lost to history. Then Juninho approached England's young right back, Gary Neville, flicked the ball over the defender, scampered beneath Neville's armpit and repossessed the round object that he has been besotted with throughout his lifetime.

Brazilians, though, had doubted that Juninho would grow tall enough to make it in football. Just as Bryan Robson was rejected as too skinny for Newcastle United as an adolescent, so Juninho was cast aside, made to travel 80 kilometres to a part-time provincial team, Etuano. Then, at 20, he entered the big league in São Paulo, not with Corinthians, who had turned him away in boyhood, but with the São Paulo club, managed by Telé Santana.

He is the proudest protector of the joy in *jogo bonito*, pretty play, that the world game possesses. "Small Juninho may be," Santana said last month, "but he feared nobody, nor anything." Santana decided that even the food prepared by Juninho's mother, rice and black beans, was not the full answer. He sent Juninho to the big-city biochemists, put him through excruciating weight-training and body-building and, though the visual results appear negligible, Juninho is grateful to Santana for that care and trusting attention.

Sometime soon, if it has not already happened, Juninho will spot a frail old-timer at the Riverside Stadium. He will see how this man's presence is held in awe. When he asks, when they meet, Juninho will learn that this is Wilf Mannion, the inside forward who scored 11 goals from 26 games for England and who, some say, was Brazilian-born and raised and made godlike on Teesside.

Mannion played 350 times for Middlesbrough from 1936 to 1954 and scored 110 goals. They say he had balletic balance, a hypnotic affinity with the ball, an inner toughness. Juninho, whose tally is 15 goals in 101 São Paulo matches, comes with a tall reputation but with much to live up to and things to learn. "He will probably know only four or five words," Fjortoft said, "he will know pound, and thank you, and goodbye." But the word that we should learn, by three o'clock this afternoon, is *bemvindo* — welcome. With 30,000 Teessiders roaring him on, the young Brazilian might even reach two inches taller than Maradona.

THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL v MANCHESTER UNITED

Cantona has been almost subdued since returning from his 248 days 18 hours and 57 minutes in exile but at least Keane has maintained the recent United tradition for seeing red mist. Rumours abound that Don King, he of the electric hair, is considering a vice-presidency at Old Trafford. Today's game will test the temper of a saint. United having lost players — Hughes and Cantona — to dismissals in successive league matches at Highbury. Platt will start for Arsenal, for the first time since August, instead of Parlour or Keown.

LAST SEASON: Arsenal 0 Manchester Utd 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 1-0, 1-2, 2-1, 1-0, 3-1, 1-1, 0-1, 2-2, 0-0.

How they line up

ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, L Dixon, A Adams, S Bould, N Winterburn, P Merson, R Parlour, M Keown, D Platt, G Helder, D Bergkamp, I Wright, J Hartson, J Jensen, V Bartram.
MANCHESTER UTD (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, S Bruce, G Pallister, D Irwin, R Keane, N Butt, E Cantona, R Giggs, A Cole, P Scholes, D Beckham, L Sharpe, B McClair, P Neville, K Pilkington.

CHELSEA v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Chelsea have finally concluded the signing of Dan Petrescu after conflicting medical reports put the £2.3 million deal on hold. Trouble is, the Romanian defender cannot play against his former club today because his work permit has not come through. Shame. A touch of spice would not have gone amiss in this distinctly drab-looking fixture, with Chelsea having leaked seven goals in their past two Premiership outings and Wednesday having won only once in six. Has all the makings of Yawnsville, USA.

LAST SEASON: Chelsea 1 Sheffield Wed 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 2-0, 2-1, —, 4-0, —, 0-3, 0-2, 1-1, 1-1.

How they line up

CHELSEA (from): D Kharine, R Gullit, S Clarke, G Hall, E Johnsen, D Lee, F Sinclair, A Barness, A Myers, N Spackman, G Peacock, D Wise, C Burley, E Newton, M Stein, M Hughes, J Spencer, P Furlong.
SHEFFIELD WED (from): K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, D Walker, K Ingesson, A Sinton, M Pembridge, C Waddle, M Williams, D Hirst, G Whittingham, M Bright, A Pearce, L Briscoe, M Degryse, O Donaldson.

COVENTRY v TOTTENHAM

Tottenham's capitulation, from 2-0 up to 3-2 down, in their Coca-Cola Cup third-round tie at Highfield Road ten days ago must rank as one of the most abject surrenders of the season. Or perhaps, from a Sky Blue viewpoint, one of the most stirring fightbacks. Goals aplenty are again likely this afternoon, with Coventry's Premiership form horrendous and Tottenham having subsequently exorcised the demons with a 1-1 draw against Newcastle United. If Big Ron loses Ndlovu with a hamstring injury, forget another home win.

LAST SEASON: Coventry 0 Tottenham 4.
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-3, 4-3, 2-1, 1-1, 0-0, 2-0, 1-2, 1-0, 1-0, 0-4.

How they line up

COVENTRY (from): J Filan, A Pickering, D Busst, D Rennie, M Hall, P Telfer, P Williams, K Richardson, J Salako, D Dublin, P Ndlovu, M Isaias, N Lamptey, J Darby, W Boland, D Burrows, J Gould.
TOTTENHAM (from): I Walker, D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, C Wilson, J Dozzell, I Dumitrescu, D Howells, D Kerslake, R Rosenthal, S Campbell, G McMahon, R Fox, C Armstrong, E Sheringham.

MANCHESTER CITY v BOLTON

"We're doomed, we're doomed," Corporal Fraser lamented constantly in *Dad's Army*. City supporters must feel the same, after only 11 Premiership matches and with Alan Ball in permanent whinge mode. He was at it again yesterday, after the advisors of Thomas Christiansen, a tralist from Barcelona, faxed their wage demands to Maine Road. "It was absolutely ridiculous," Ball bawled. "We've let them know our feelings and told them the matter is closed." Bolton could inflict more grief this afternoon.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: No fixtures.

How they line up

MANCHESTER CITY (from): E Immel, J Foster, K Curle, K Symons, R Edghill, S Lomas, G Kinkladze, G Flitcroft, N Summerbee, N Quinn, U Rösler, M Brown, G Creaney, M Margetson.
BOLTON (from): K Branagan, S McAnespie, C Fairclough, G Bergsson, J Phillips, A Stubbs, A Thompson, S Curcic, D Lee, M Pastoinen, J McGinlay, M Patterson, S Green, F DeFreitas, A Davison.

MIDDLESBROUGH v LEEDS

Twenty-one players might as well not turn up at the Riverside Stadium today. All eyes will be on Osvaldo Giroldo Junior, aka Juninho, the baby-faced Brazilian who will fit among the cloggers and show the Premiership how to party. Samba fever is here. Tell that to Craig Hignett, scorer of six goals this season and the player that Bryan Robson is most likely to axe for Middlesbrough's newly-adopted son. If Robbo gives Higgo the heave-ho, he can expect a knock on his office door first thing Monday morning.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, —, 2-0, —, 0-2, —, —, 4-1, —, —.

How they line up

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Walsh, N Cox, S Vickers, N Pearson, P Whelan, C Morris, N Barmby, J Pollock, J A Fjortoft, R Mustoe, Juninho, C Hignett, A Moore, J Moreno, C Liddle.
LEEDS (from): J Lukic, G Kelly, D Wetherall, R Jobson, J Pemberton, N Worthington, B Deane, C Palmer, G McAllister, A Couzens, A Yeboah, N Whelan, R Bowman, P Beesley, P Masinga, M Beeney.

NEWCASTLE v LIVERPOOL

Big names, big game — a meeting that could steal some of the thunder from Juninho's public bow down the A1 at Middlesbrough. "It's a special occasion," Kevin Keegan said. "It sets your spine tingling." Both clubs suffered hiccups this week — Newcastle at Tottenham in the Premiership, Liverpool against Brondby in the Uefa Cup — and their followers will need swift reassurances that all is well. Collymore has *not* gone awol, according to Roy Evans, and will be in the Liverpool squad if he turns up.

LAST SEASON: Newcastle 1 Liverpool 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 0-2, 1-4, 2-2, —, —, —, —, 3-0, 1-1.

How they line up

NEWCASTLE (from): S Hislop, W Barton, J Beresford, D Peacock, S Howey, K Gillespie, R Lee, L Clark, D Ginola, L Ferdinand, P Beardsley, R Elliott, S Sellars, P Albert, P Smicek.
LIVERPOOL (from): D James, R Jones, J McAteer, P Babb, M Wright, J Scales, S Harkness, S McManaman, J Barnes, J Redknapp, I Rush, R Fowler, S Collymore, N Ruddock, M Kennedy, A Warner.

SOUTHAMPTON v QPR

Ray Wilkins reckons 15 minutes is too long to spend in the dressing-room at half-time. "I'd rather have five minutes out in the middle like those rugby chaps," he said. Super idea, Ray. At the moment, Matthew Le Tissier needs as much time as he can get to refresh his body and soul, such is his apparent disenchantment with life. Still, at least he has agreed another 12 months on the three-year contract he signed in May last year, which may well keep him at the dingly Dell for the rest of his career. Some players are easily pleased.

LAST SEASON: Southampton 2 QPR 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, 5-1, 0-1, 1-4, 0-2, 3-1, 2-1, 1-2, 0-1, 2-1.

How they line up

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, J Dodd, F Benali, K Monkou, J Magilton, R Hall, B Venison, M Le Tissier, N Maddison, G Watson, N Shipperley, N Heaney, D Hughes, P Tisdale, F Bennett, B Grobbelaar.
QPR (from): J Sommer, D Bardsley, K Ready, S Yates, D Maddix, A McDonald, R Brevett, S Barker, A Impey, N Zelic, R Wilkins, I Holloway, T Sinclair, K Gallen, D Dichio, S Osborn, M Brazier, A Roberts.

WEST HAM v ASTON VILLA

Are West Ham, five matches unbeaten in the Premiership, heading for mid-table obscurity and the prospect of no relegation worries in the new year? Harry Redknapp believes so and, for once, has the statistics to back his claims. Somehow, it will not seem the same without a backs-against-the-wall-but-we'll-show-'em fight at Upton Park. Villa visit this afternoon, with their early-season surge having tapered off into a none-too-convincing seventh place. West Ham's new-found confidence should see them off.

LAST SEASON: West Ham 1 Aston Villa 0.
10-YEAR RECORD: 4-1, 1-1, —, 2-2, —, —, 3-1, —, 0-0, 1-0.

How they line up

WEST HAM (from): L Miklosko, S Potts, M Rieper, A Martin, J Dicks, R Slater, J Moncur, D Hutchison, I Bishop, A Cottee, I Ddwie, M Hughes, D Williamson, M Boogers, J Harkes, K Rowland, L Sealey, S Lazaridis.
ASTON VILLA (from): M Bosnich, G Charles, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, P McGrath, A Wright, I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, S Milosevic, D Yorke, R Scimeca, T Johnson, N Spink.

TOMORROW

EVERTON v BLACKBURN

Blackburn showed a glimmer of intent against Legia Warsaw in midweek yet still became the first of the 16 clubs in the European Cup Champions' League to be eliminated. Everton displayed a lot of determination against Feyenoord, in the Uefa Cup, but were also consigned to the European scrapheap. Blackburn are likely to recover the quicker, with Bohlnen and McKinlay eligible again, while Everton should have Kanchelskis back in the ranks. Domestic form gives the Scousers little hope.

LAST SEASON: Everton 1 Blackburn 2.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, —, 2-1, 0-3, 1-2.

How they line up

EVERTON (from): N Southall, E Barrett, S Barlow, M Jackson, C Short, D Watson, G Ablett, D Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe, B Horne, A Grant, A Limpar, J Ebbrell, G Stuart, P Rideout, A Kanchelskis, D Amokachi.
BLACKBURN (from): T Flowers, H Berg, J Kenna, C Hendry, I Pearce, T Sherwood, D Batty, P Warhurst, S Ripley, A Shearer, M Newell, C Sutton, G Le Saux, M Holmes, R Mimms, L Bohlnen, W McKinlay.

MONDAY

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v WIMBLEDON

Joe Kinnear, Wimbledon's beleaguered manager, has already used 24 players in the Premiership this season. He may have to enlist a few more — apparently, A. Tealady is available on Monday — if the crisis of *Casualty* proportions does not subside soon. Forest, Britain's finest club and only club left in Europe, carry on remorselessly, seeking their 25th successive Premiership match without defeat. Everything points to a Forest victory unless Kinnear can call on the Crazy Gang spirit of old. Nothing less will do.

LAST SEASON: Nottingham Forest 3 Wimbledon 1.
10-YEAR RECORD: —, 3-2, 0-0, 0-1, 0-1, 2-1, 4-2, 1-1, —, 3-1.

How they line up

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce, S Stone, C Bart-Williams, I Wosn, J Lee, B Roy, S Gemmill, A Hasland, D Phillips, A Silenzi, P McGregor, M Rigby.
WIMBLEDON (from): P Heald, K Cunningham, A Kimble, G Elkins, C Perry, A Reeves, V Jones, R Earle, O Leonhardsen, M Gayle, D Holdsworth, A Clarke, M Harford, G Blissett, J Goodman, J Euell.

HOW THEY STAND

		P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Newcastle	11	28	+19	WWWWD
2	Manchester Utd	11	26	+12	DDWWW
3	Liverpool	11	23	+16	WDDWW
4	Arsenal	11	21	+9	WLWWL
5	Nottm Forest	11	21	+7	DWWWD
6	Middlesbrough	11	21	+5	WWWWL
7	Aston Villa	11	20	+5	DWLLW
8	Leeds	11	20	+4	WWLDW
9	Tottenham	11	16	+2	WWLDD
10	Chelsea	11	15	-3	LWWLL
11	Blackburn	11	14	+1	WLWDW
12	West Ham	11	13	-2	LWWDW
13	Sheffield Wed	11	11	-4	DLLWL
14	QPR	11	10	-7	LWLLD
15	Wimbledon	11	10	-10	LLLLL
16	Everton	11	9	-4	LLDDL
17	Southampton	11	9	-9	LLLLW
18	Bolton	11	8	-10	LLDLW
19	Coventry	11	7	-13	LLDLL
20	Manchester City	11	2	-18	LLLDL

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)

Tomorrow

12 noon Sky Sports Goals on Sunday
3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday
Everton v Blackburn (live)

Monday

7pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football
Nottingham Forest v Wimbledon (live)

Compiled by Russell Kempson and Julian Desborough

هكذا من الاصل

صكرا من الاصل

Rob Hughes says British football must throw off its insularity

Root of problem lies further up tree

Why must the Europeans march so out of step with British football? All right, there was a little darkness during the week, the minor matter of the eclipse of seven out of the remaining eight British clubs from European competition. That only Nottingham Forest survived, that only Raith Rovers of the eight elite representatives from these islands could score a solitary goal, certainly cast a little darkness.

But never fear. Come the end of the week, Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the Football Association, was standing outside Lancaster Gate and broadcasting his intention to do something about it. That is, to hold a summit comprising the managers from the vanquished clubs. Moreover, Kelly was adding the FA's weighty voice to football's determined squeal that its precious players deserve special treatment and should never be constrained by the Treaty of Rome.

He, and the European football body, Uefa, do not intend to allow the politicians to deal with football players as if they were employees of some other commercial concern. Football is not, Kelly asserted, like any other industry. Oh no?

To compound our bleak week, the voice of George Graham resurfaced to sell his book, his version of how he came to accept a suitcase full of £50 notes, an unsolicited gift which the bank manager helped him count to £140,500 — and that was just the first and smaller of two instalments from the Norwegian agent, Rune Hauge.

The former Arsenal manager still feels affronted by his treatment at the FA. He was only, he tells us, for more money, through a newspaper, banking those gifts with the intention of setting up a trust fund for his children who (a) are adults (b) have a father who was already paid ten times the average salary in Britain and (c) themselves have a university education to help them pursue careers beyond many people's dreams.

Football, once again and now truly a commercial business, gave Graham all of that, and it is he who abused it.

Graham, however, was the last British manager to succeed in those deep European waters. The physical fitness of Arsenal, the indomitable will, the self-belief, daunted even such teams as Paris Saint-Germain, the very club that so splendidly put out Celtic in Glasgow on Thursday night.

It goes back such a long way, this perceived awe of British prowess. "The British possess a treasure which they will find hard to conserve, their limitless self-confidence. For them, their way of playing will remain the best, the only valid way in the world. They may be boring, banal, uninventive, but they really believe they are the best."

A Swiss winger called Daniel Jeandupeux said that in 1964. A certain Charles Hughes, still the director of coaching and education at the FA, has been propounding the English way, the direct way, and denigrating the attempts of the rest of the world for all of the intervening years.

Yet, even when we are utterly dismantled by sophistication, when clearly the Europeans have matched our fitness and surpassed our part-time (British footballers train only in the mornings) endeavours, we look inwardly rather than abroad.

"No one can dispute we have been under-performing in Europe, and everything we can do to improve the situation we must do," Kelly said yesterday. Everything, Mr Kelly?

He may remember a meeting aboard the Stockholm to Gothenburg express the day after England were eliminated from the 1992 European championship finals. He was asked whether there would be an inquest. Then, as now, the answer was that we were already doing enough, that grass-roots reappraisal of coaching was in hand.

In whose hands? The question remains. Nobody within Lancaster Gate has ever dared to point the finger publicly at their own chief of coaching indoctrination, or the low standard of football spawned by decades of following the up-and-at-them credo.

We are told a new technical director will arrive with a wand in 1996. Meanwhile, the crisis meetings, the summits of men paid a quarter of a million pounds a year continue. But they are caught within a framework of insularity. Who is failing us? Is it the footballers who lack technique, or the coaches who lack tactical guile and organisational acumen? Something, somewhere, is wrong ... and it is not all lost on the playing fields of British schools.



Ravanelli's goal for Juventus at Rangers typified the way British football is floundering behind Continental expertise. Photograph: Peter Kemp

Police investigating Keane sending-off

MANCHESTER police are investigating Roy Keane's dismissal against Middlesbrough last Saturday after a complaint from an Everton supporter (Peter Ball writes). Keane was sent off after appearing to punch Jan Aage Fjortoft. The police have written to the FA and both clubs to establish the facts.

Two weeks after his visit to Chelsea, Eric Cantona is back in London today, at Highbury, where he was sent off two seasons ago. In the same fixture last season, Mark Hughes was sent off in a sometimes bitter game and, with Arsenal riding high, the match could be United's biggest test so far, as well as another searching examination for the Frenchman.

"I just hope that this time it will be a game of football," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "The referee will be very important because, the last couple of years, I think the referees succumbed to the pressure from the Arsenal crowd."

Blackburn Rovers have reported interest in Regi Blinker, the scorer of Feyenoord's winning goal against Everton on Thursday, and the Dutch winger reciprocated yesterday. "If Blackburn want me, I'd be happy to join them," Blinker said.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Toyota rally team suspended for year

THE Toyota team was disqualified from the world rally championship by the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) yesterday for using illegal turbo-restrictors in the Catalonia Rally in Spain last month. The team, which is highly-placed in the contests for the drivers' and manufacturers' world titles, was also suspended from the championship for one year. "It is the most sophisticated and ingenious device I have ever seen in 30 years of motor sport," Max Mosley, the FIA president, said.

Didier Auriol, of France, lost fourth place in Spain because the gadget was adjudged to have illegally enabled the engine of his car to become too powerful. His team-mate, Juha Kankkunen, of Finland, had already retired but he, too, was excluded. Kankkunen and Auriol were third and fourth respectively in the world drivers' championship. A Toyota spokeswoman said: "I think the FIA has shown now that they want to take the life out of rallying."

Southgate seek victory

HOCKEY: Southgate travel to Guildford for the only National League match today, knowing that defeat would leave them little chance of regaining the first division title. East Grinstead, beaten 4-1 last week by Havant, will be in the same situation if they lose at home to Cannock tomorrow. Hounslow are at full strength for their away match against Old Loughtonians, to whom they have never lost in the league. Canterbury entertain Havant and are reorganising their defence after conceding ten goals in the past two matches. St Albans entertain Reading, the leaders.

Champions head flotilla

ROWING: Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, the world and Olympic champions, are joined by Rob Thatcher and James Cracknell, Britain's double scull in Finland in August, in a quad scull which will lead off a flotilla of 500 crews in the Fullers Fours Head from Mortlake to Putney today. The crew are favourites to defend the title for Leander although the event is packed with members of the national squad, among them the Searle brothers, Greg and Johnny, who team up with Robert Obholzer and Tim Foster, and the world championship eight, divided into two quad sculls.

Islanders meet England

NETBALL: The Cook Islands meet England in the first game of a three-match series at Wembley today. Ranked fourth in the world, England have recently reappointed Liz Broomhead as national coach. The Cook Islands proved one of the more exciting, spontaneous sides at the world championships in Birmingham in July and finished seventh. On Wednesday, the series moves to Gateshead before crossing the Pennines to Manchester next Saturday.

ENGLAND SQUAD: H Marulor, C Duncan, h Stawnsiu, M Burdinshaw, A Woods, L Sdao, F Murtagh, L Sheridan, J Hall, T Miller, S Hanley, J Saunders, J Manson.

Quick win for Sampras

TENNIS: Pete Sampras, the top seed, set up a semi-final meeting with his fellow American, Jim Courier, at the Paris Indoor Open yesterday by overwhelming Jakob Hlasek, of Switzerland, 6-2, 6-3. Sampras served 15 aces in a match which lasted 74 minutes. Hlasek was clearly feeling the effects of his thrilling three-set win over Marc Rosset on Wednesday and was never able to get into the match. Sampras, who takes over as the world No 1 from Andre Agassi on Monday, has beaten Courier in 13 of their 16 previous encounters.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

HONG KONG OPEN: Second round: Singles: Men: H Arbi (Indo) bt Chen Huang (China) 15-2, 15-3; P Rasmussen (Den) bt M Helber (Ger) 5-15, 15-3, 15-1; Fung Permadi (Taiwan) bt T Soegaard (Den) 15-5, 15-11; R Bagge (Indo) bt J Olsson (Swe) 15-12, 13-15, 15-11; P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) bt Chang Jeng-shyuang (Taiwan) 15-8, 15-2; G Ramarodi (Indo) bt G La Rosa (It) 15-4, 15-4; L Kwang-jin (S Kor) bt T Chiangta (Thai) 15-4, 15-8; P Jantti (Fin) bt J Van Dijk (Hol) 15-8, 15-8; M Lundgaard Hansen (Den) bt M Roslin Hashim (Malaysia) 15-11, 15-11; K Hak-hyun (S Kor) bt E Lia (Nor) 15-7, 15-8; T Johansson (Swe) bt H Sun-ho (S Kor) 15-4 15-4; H Susanto (Indo) bt M Bulak (Ger) 15-5, 15-9; A Jae-chang (S Kor) bt O Pongratz (Ger) 15-11, 15-8; I Abdul Saman (Malaysia) bt Zhu Jianwen (China) 15-7, 12-15, 15-12; Lu Lusan (China) bt J Lobo (Macau) 15-0, 15-2; A Budi Kusuma (Indo) bt S Takahiro (Japan) 15-3, 15-0. Women: B Soo-hyun (S Kor) bt D D'Connor (Tirl) 11-2, 11-5; P Plungpaech (Thai) bt Huang Chai-chi (Taiwan) 11-1, 11-12, 11-3; C Martin (Den) bt K Wai-chee (HK) 11-1, 11-0; Tang Jianyun (China) bt M Borg (Swe) 11-7, 11-4; Lim Xiaoqing (Swe) bt M Hoogland (Holl) 11-4, 11-2; Chen Ya-lin (Taiwan) bt C Campbell (Aus) 11-5, 11-12, 11-2; L Joo-hyun (S Kor) bt K Morgan (Eng) 7-11, 11-8, 11-0; Yao Yan (China) bt Cindana (Indo) 11-2, 7-11, 11-5; C Magnusson (Swe) bt L Thomsen (Den) 11-3, 11-8; M Audina (Indo) bt Zeng Yaqiong (China) 11-0, 11-4; T Ida (Japan) bt H Schenberning (Ger) 11-2, 11-2; R Kyung-ran (S Kor) bt D Julien (Can) 11-5, 11-8; Fan Lihua (China) bt Ye Rufei (China) 12-10, 11-5; K Ji-hyun (S Kor) bt Ng Ching (HK) 11-1, 11-1; C Bengtsson (Swe) bt Y Mizui (Japan) 11-5, 12-10; Ye Zhaoying (China) bt S Jaroonsri (Thai) 11-2, 11-1.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby Storm 94 Leopards 102.

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-final series: Group A: Moscow: CSKA Moscow 98 Dynamos 91. Madrid: Real Madrid 91 Partizan Tel Aviv 74. Barcelona: Barcelona 83 Panathinaikos 57. Treviso: Benetton Treviso 92 Ulker Istanbul 73. Pau: Pau-Orthez 76 Benfica Lisbon 61.

BOWLS

YETTON TROPHY: First round: Gateshead 102 Ashington 63; Concordia 80 Cumbria A 81; Stanley 106 Consett 64; Thornaby 89 Hartlepool 84; Sunderland 64 Houghton 75. Darlington 111 C&SW Durham 54, North Cave 81 York B 84, Selby 72 Richardsons 71, Scarborough 56 Hull A 82; New Earswick 56 York A 93; March A 72 Cambridge Chesterton A 75; Old Hall 62 Ross Peers 82; March B 72 Huntingdon 83. Rushden 85 Northampton A 96. Lawson Park B 86 Kettering 73; Kingsthorpe A 79 Lawson Park A 64; St Neots 73 Bedford 56; Pinewood Park 61 Norfolk 74; County Arts 76 Acle 70, Gallow 74 North Walsham 85, Ipswich 77 Eccles 64, Ilford 80 Barking B 74; Barking A 57 Cheshunt 102; Glebelands 88 Mansfield 94; Century 67 Pickett's Lock 83. Desborough Maidenhead A 91 Harpe A 53. Desborough B 72 Rowsen 82; Oxford City & County 82 Harpe B 70; Foxhill 94 Hatfield 66; Herts A 81 Luton A 63; Rugby Thornfield 86 Erdington Court 67; Birmingham 79 Tamworth 64; Gloucester 88 Fairford 78, Bentham 58 Westlecot 86; King George 88 Cambridge Park 85, Richmond A 105 Hounslow B 82; Hounslow A 73 Elmbridge 95; Old Coulsdon 67 Croydon B 78, Croydon A 108 Temple 63, Crystal Palace A 77 Sutton B 87, Lewisham 75 Cyphers 82; Way Valley A 81 White-knights B 75, Camberley B 72 Egham A 76; Folkestone 86 Oyster 77; Angel A 122 Angel B 49; Worthing 67 Adur 77; Langney Sports 64 Preston 96; Solent 100 Banister Park A 82; Five Rivers 74 Banister Park B 67, Havant 77 Isle of Wight 67; East Dorset A 86 Moorfleet 71; Fosseway 71 Bristol 85, Clarrie Dunbar 53 Clevedon 85; Taunton 75 Yeovil 85; Newquay 87 Plymouth Mayflower 78; Plymouth Civil Service 108 Caradon 57.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Melbourne: Victoria 158 (M Elliot 53; G Matthews 4-52) and 241; New South Wales 344 (M Taylor 126, S Waugh 80; S Warne 5-122) and 56-4. New South Wales won by six wickets. Hobart (second day of four): Tasmania 458-2 dec (D Hills 220 not out, R Ponting 118 not out, D Boon 88); Queensland 0-0.

TOUR MATCHES: Adelaide (second day of four): South Australia 392-8 dec (D Lehmann 138, T Nielsen 57, B Johnson 54); Pakistanis 199-5 (Basit Ali 64 not out). Hyderabad (second day of three): New Zealanders 454-3 dec (R G Twose 119 retired not out, M Crowe 110, C Cairns 75 not out, S Fleming 65), Indian Colts XI 160 (J Yadav 59, M Hari 6-73).

CASTLE CUP: Durban (first day of four): Natal 280-8 (D Crookes 81, J Rhodes 79 not out, S Jack 4-75) v Transvaal. Port Elizabeth (first day of four): Eastern Province 218 (P Amm 89; A Donald 5-44). Free State 28-0.

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP. Second round, second leg: Celtic 0 Paris Saint-Germain 3 (agg 0-4). Feyenoord 1 Everton 0 (agg 1-0); Hradec Kralove 1 Dynamo Moscow 0 (aet, 1-0 after 90min, agg 1-1, Moscow win 3-1 on pens). FC Bruges 0 Real Zaragoza 1 (agg 1-3). Parma 4 Helmsedt 0 (agg 4-3); AEK Athens 0 Borussia Mönchengladbach 1 (agg 1-5). Rapid Vienna 4 Sporting Lisbon 0 (aet: 2-0 after 90min, agg 4-2). Deportivo La Coruña 3 Trabzonspor 0 (agg 4-0).

UEFA CUP: AC Milan 2 Strasbourg 1 (agg 3-1)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Stoke 3 Tranmere 3. Second division: Bradford 0 Burnley 3.

FA YOUTH CUP: First round proper: Torquay 2 Welling 0; Reading 0 Cardiff 2.

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPER CUP: Quarter-finals: Second legs: Flamengo (Br) 1 Nacional (Uru) 0 (agg 2-0); Independiente (Arg) 2 Atletico Nacional (Colombia) 0 (agg 3-0), River Plate (Arg) 3 Gremio (Br) 2 (agg 4-4, River Plate won 4-2 on penalties). São Paulo (Br) 0 Cruzeiro (Br) 1 (agg 1-1, Cruzeiro won 4-1 on penalties).

GOLF

JAKARTA: Alfred Dunhill Masters: Second-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 131: C Parry (Aus) 66, 65. 134: M Campbell (NZ) 69, 65. 135: C Gray (Aus) 69, 66. G Chalmers (Aus) 68, 67. 136: M Gronberg (Swe) 66, 70. 137: E Droop (Aus) 68, 69, M Mouland 70, 67; G Joyner (Aus) 69, 68.

HAWAII: Kapalua International: First round scores (US unless stated): 65: D Clark (N Ire), J Furyk, M Standly 68: G McCord, R Lohr, B Lane (Eng), J McGovern, J Adams 67: L Clements, R Maltbie, R Cochran, J Pate, T Lehman, J Schroeder, B Crenshaw, B Chamblee, H Twitty, M Dawson, M Heinen.

HOCKEY

BISHAM ABBEY: International match: Women: Great Britain 4 Russia 1 (Great Britain win series 3-0).

KUALA LUMPUR: Sultan Azlan Shah Cup: Fifth series: India 1 Spain 0; Malaysia 2 New Zealand 3; Germany 1 Canada 0. Final group standings: 1, Germany 9, 2, India 7; 3, Canada 4. (Final tomorrow: Germany v India).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Pittsburgh 10 Tampa Bay 0; Buffalo 2 Detroit 1; Washington 5 Montreal 2; Chicago 1 Dallas 1 (OT). Toronto 4 Winnipeg 2. Colorado 6 Calgary 1, Anaheim 3 St Louis 0, Edmonton 3 Vancouver 3 (OT); Ottawa 5 Hartford 0; Detroit 6 Boston 5 (OT); Florida 2 Philadelphia 1; Los Angeles 5 New York Rangers 3. New Jersey 3 San Jose 3 (OT).

BRITISH LEAGUE: Guildford 6 Swindon 3.

RACKETS

MANCHESTER: Gold Rackets: Semi-finals: G Barker bt C Danby 25-15; J Snow bt G Devereux 25-18. Final: Barker bt Snow 15-11, 7-15, 15-12.

REAL TENNIS

MANCHESTER: Gold Rackets: First division: Semi-finals: J Snow bt T Warburg 10-2; N Pendrigh bt I Snell 10-8. Final: Snow bt Pendrigh 6-3, 6-1. Second division: Final: G Devereux bt M McMurrugh 6-0. Third division: Final: S Kverndal bt G Hewitt 8-4. Doubles: First division: Semi-finals: Snow and McMurrugh bt Hewitt and M Heyward 8-0; Warburg and S Shenkman bt J Acheson-Grey and Pendrigh 8-3. Final: Snow and McMurrugh bt Warburg and Shenkman 8-1, 6-1.

TROCADERO NATIONAL LEAGUE: Coutts Harbour Club 2 Petworth 1; Hatfield 2 Holyport 1

SNOOKER

MALTA: Rothmans Grand Prix: Quarter-finals: K Doherty (Ire) bt D Roe (Eng) 5-0; D Morgan (Wales) bt A Borg (Malta) 5-3; J Higgins (Sco) bt T Drago (Malta) 5-3; P Ebdon (Eng) bt D Harold (Eng) 5-0

SQUASH

NATIONAL LEAGUE: (Home players first) Broxbourne 2 Mitsubishi Electric Potters Bar 3 (J Bonesgt bt P Carter 9-0, 10-8, 9-1; J Wellings bt N Frankland 3-9, 10-8, 9-2, 9-7; S Handley lost to J Davis 3-9, 3-9, 0-9; P Gunter lost to I Higgins 10-8, 9-5, 5-8, 1-9, 0-9; T Weeks lost to S Wright 0-9, 1-9, 2-9) Reebok Nottingham 1 Duffield 4 (S Horner bt J Trenfield 9-2, 9-4, 9-0; M Allen lost to P Hargrave 8-10, 9-0, 10-8, 1-9, 4-9, B Hickerman lost to S Taylor 5-9, 1-9, 4-9; M Hopkins lost to P Blantaby 7-9, 7-9, 1-9, G Briars lost to K White 6-9, 5-9, 0-9). Bromley Town 4 Phillips Windows Chichester 1 (C Tomlinson bt N Dugan 9-5, 8-10, 4-9, 9-7, 9-5; J Robbins bt P Genever 9-5, 8-10, 3-9, 9-2, 9-2; B Ford bt M Greenstede 9-5, 9-3, 10-8; J Russell bt G Clark 9-0, 9-0, 9-1; S Bond lost to A Malynn 4-9, 5-9, 4-9). Keyline Barnham Broom 5 Corals of Hove 0 (D Campion bt M Harris 10-8, 10-8, 4-9, 9-6 M Cowe bt R Bryant 9-6, 9-8, 9-2; M Hornby bt J Logan 9-6, 9-0, 3-9, 9-4, B Ball bt G Pearson 9-2, 9-2, 9-7, C Jackman bt D Leaves 6-8, 9-4, 9-0, 9-2). Lexden of Colchester 4 Sigma Strings of Swansea 1 (R Godden bt J Dark 9-3, 9-4, 9-0; D Bradbury bt A Evans 9-3, 9-3, 9-7; L Drew bt M Benjamin 9-6, 5-9, 9-2, 9-0; P Allen bt M Jones 9-1, 9-1, 9-4, J Burnett lost to F Geaves 0-9, 0-9, 1-9).

TENNIS

PARIS: Men's tournament: Second round: Third round: R Krajicek (Hol) bt P Haarhuis (Hol) 6-4, 6-2; D Vacek (Cz) bt G Forget (Fr) 5-2, ret; J Hlasek (Switz) bt M Rosset (Switz) 2-6, 7-6, 7-6; B Becker (Ger) bt T Mamn (US) 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; P Sampras (US) bt J Siemerink (Hol) 6-3, 6-4. Quarter-finals: J Courier (US) bt M Chang (US) 6-2, 7-6; W Ferreira (SA) bt Vacek (Czech) 6-2, 6-4.

OAKLAND: Women's tournament: Second round: M Maleava (Bul) bt L McNeil (US) 6-1, 6-4, H Sukova (Cz) bt K Po (US) 5-7, 7-6, 6-2, Z Garrison Jackson (US) bt K Adams (US) 3-6, 6-2, 6-2; M J Fernandez (US) bt C Singer (Ger) 6-0, 6-3; V Williams (US) bt A Frazier (US) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; L Harvey-Wild (US) bt P Shriver (US) 6-7, 7-5, 7-6, A Sugiyama (Jap) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 6-4, 4-6, 6-1; L Davenport (US) bt T Whitinger-Jones (US) 7-5, 6-1.

QUEBEC: Women's tournament: Second round: A Coetzer (SA) bt S Stafford (US) 6-1, 2-6, 6-4, D Monami (Bel) bt I Gorrochategui (Arg) 6-3, 6-2; L Courtois (Bel) bt R Simpson (Can) 6-4, 6-3; B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) bt M Tu (US) 6-2, 6-4; R Stubbs (Aus) bt L Raymond (US) 3-6, 7-6, 7-6; L Lee (US) bt N Tauziat 6-2, 4-6, 7-6, J Heland-Decugis (Fr) bt A Miller (US) 6-3, 7-6, S Testud (Fr) bt V Ruano-Pascual (Spain) 6-1, 6-1.

TOKYO: Champions' tournament, first round: J Lloyd (Eng) bt J Kriek (SA) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

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SIMON BARNES 41
BORN-AGAIN FANS SWELL COFFERS FOR O J SIMPSON

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 42
CARDIFF PRIMED FOR RETURN OF PRODIGAL SON

Campaign kicks off to defeat Bosman findings

By John Goodbody

FOOTBALL authorities yesterday began lobbying European governments because they fear that the final judgment on the Jean-Marc Bosman case will split the game in two and destroy its future.

Early next year it is likely to be confirmed that football's transfer system and the restrictions on the number of foreign players employed by clubs are illegal under the laws of the European Union. The ruling is expected to undermine transfers — £80 million was spent last summer by English clubs alone.

However, while waiting for the verdict of the European Court of Justice on these employment regulations, Uefa, the European governing body of football, has asked members to urge their governments to make an exception of sport.

The European Court case arose after Bosman, a Belgian player with RFC Liège, completed a two-year contract. He was offered a new deal at a quarter of his previous salary and, when he declined, was prevented from leaving by the price the club put on his head.

Graham Kelly, chief executive of the Football Association, said yesterday that letters had been sent to the Prime Minister, the National Heritage Department and the opposition parties, urging the European Commission to set aside the recommendation made six weeks ago by Carl Otto Lenz, the Advocate-General of the European Court.

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Kelly warned against the effects of scrapping the present rules that ensure that at least six players in every team participating in European competition are of the club's nationality and, also, that a fee is paid by one club to another when a player is transferred.

Uefa said in an open letter that the organisation would be split into two sections, those countries inside and those outside the community. "The European Union associations will also be placed in a different position from the rest of the world."

In Lenz's interpretation of the employment rules, any club within the union should be able to field as many players from another member state as it wishes. Transfer fees should only be paid when a contract is still in force.

Kelly said that the effects of this opinion would be to concentrate the leading players in a "relatively small number of rich clubs, thereby reducing competition between clubs". This would harm the development of young players.

Uefa, in a letter signed by the 49 presidents of the national football associations, claimed that hundreds of middle-sized and smaller clubs may go out of existence. Many of them have only remained solvent by selling their best players to bigger clubs.

The small clubs were also bound to abandon their expensive youth teams and youth training schemes, causing a "major vacuum" in the training of young people to professional standards.

In Scotland, Rangers disagree with the view of the Scottish Football Association (SFA), which follows the Uefa line. Jim Farry, the chief executive of the SFA, warned: "If our champions believe that, in scrapping the foreigner rule, it will bring them more success in Europe, they are ill-judged. The-big-fish-in-a-wee-pool syndrome could rapidly become a wee fish in a big pool."

Under the present system, any club can sign as many foreign players as it likes. However, it cannot field more than three foreign players plus two assimilated players in any one match. An assimilated player is one who has played for five years in that country, including three years in junior teams.

The football authorities admitted that the transfer system needed some amendments, and these were being discussed with the European Players' Union, but they said the system generally worked very well.



A determined Durie drives a forehand during her defeat by Smith in the semi-finals at Telford yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Rusedski happy in role of pied piper

By Stuart Jones
Tennis Correspondent

SELDOM, if ever, will the national championships have featured such sustained quality as today's programme at Telford. The country's top four men are to meet in the semi-finals and the women's final is to match the established No 1 against her heir apparent.

The three duels promise to bring towards a fitting conclusion a week in which domestic interest has been raised to unprecedented levels. The principal attraction has been the inaugural appearance of Greg Rusedski, happily filling his role as the ingratiating pied piper.

The 22-year-old yesterday suffered the ultimate sanction of being ordered off the centre court by the Wimbledon referee, Alan Mills. Rusedski is so eager to please that, in other circumstances, such an ignominy would have been considered little short of a sensational development. The top seed was not causing an offence, though. He was merely disrupting the schedule by handing out headbands and signing the host of autograph books thrust at him by star-struck youngsters. Mills ordered him to leave the arena.

On his day off, Rusedski had willingly given a clinic to 25 Shropshire juniors, playing a couple of friendly games against each of them. "At heart, I'm a little kid, running around and hitting a ball," he said. "Sometimes I can relate to them more than adults."

Complimentary about everything concerning his adopted home since changing allegiances five months ago, he paid tribute to his last two opponents. He believes that Tom Spinks, who took a set off him in the second round, and Luke Milligan, beaten 6-4, 6-2, both have genuine potential.

There will be less *bonhomie* in the air during his semi-final, however. He plays Mark Petchey, who publicly objected to Rusedski being allowed to represent Britain and took no small delight in spoiling his home debut by knocking him out of the Queen's tournament in June.

"I stand by what I said then," he said after eliminating Colin Beecher 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, "but life moves on and it [the controversy] has petered out. I'll be fired up, though, because every time you play him, you want to make a point. Male ego comes into it.

"He's such a confident character and his game is built on confidence. Depending on how you react to it, it can get in your face. He has a presence here, he hasn't offended anyone, he has a good public image and he has a lot of fans because he's a very good player".

Petchey insisted that their rivalry is neither malicious nor personal. They practised together earlier in the week, but the other semi-final will be far more amicable, albeit as competitive. Jeremy Bates and Tim Henman are the top seeds in the doubles event.

Henman dismissed Jamie Delgado 6-3, 6-3 before expressing an ambition. He has never beaten or even taken a set off Bates, who is seeking his seventh and last title, and is keen to break the sequence before his rival retires. This may be his last chance.

Bates, the No 2 seed, is ranked lower than Henman in the world and is performing with a damaged right wrist. Nevertheless, he dismissed Barry Cowan, 6-2, 7-6, and is the only one of the remaining quartet yet to drop a set.

Clare Wood, the top seed, has been told that her injured right leg will never be as strong as her left, but she reached the final for the third time. She has yet to lose there, a record threatened by Samantha Smith.

Wood ended the unexpected progress of Amanda Janes, the unseeded 17-year-old daughter of the former Wimbledon runner-up, Christine. The score, 6-3, 6-3, is deceptive. The novice held a point to lead 3-2 in the first set and she was 3-1 ahead in the second.

Smith ended Jo Durie's participation in an event she has won seven times. The 35-year-old disguised her lack of mobility with her guile and she was initially assisted by "a massive tactical error" by her opponent.

"I decided to hit the ball as hard as I could," Smith said. "Afterwards I found out that her knees are so bad that she can't chip and charge, so that policy was a waste of time." Down 4-0, she recovered to win 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 in two hours.

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES: Quarter-finals: G Rusedski (unattached) bt L Milligan (Middx) 6-4, 6-2, J Bates (Surrey) bt B Cowan (Lancs) 6-2, 7-6, M Petchey (Essex) bt C Beecher (Kent) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, T Henman (Oxon) bt J Delgado (Warwicks) 6-3, 6-3
MEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: M Maclagan (West of Scotland) and A Richardson (Lincs) bt P Hand (Berks) and G Henderson (Yorks) 6-3, 4-6, 8-6. Bates and Henman bt T Spinks (Norfolk) and Beecher 6-1, 6-2.
WOMEN'S SINGLES: Semi-finals: C Wood (Sussex) bt A Janes (Essex) 6-3, 6-3; S Smith (Essex) bt J Durie (Avon) 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: S-A Siddall (Dorset) and A Wainwright (Essex) bt L Ahl (Devon) and J Ward (Northumberland) 6-2, 6-2.

Forest avoid big guns in third-round draw

By Russell Kempson

NOTTINGHAM Forest, the sole surviving English club in European competition this season, avoided the main protagonists in the Uefa Cup third-round draw yesterday. They were paired with Lyons and thus, for the second successive tie, will play French opponents.

However, unlike in their 1-0 aggregate victory against Auxerre in the previous round, Forest will not have the advantage of playing the second leg at the City Ground. Lyons will stage the return on December 5. The first leg is on November 21.

Jean-Michel Aulas, the Lyons president, said: "It's a very difficult draw because Forest have a good record in European competition and, like all English clubs, a good record against French teams. It could be tough but we hope at least to score a goal in the first leg."

Forest were somewhat fortunate to reach the last 16, Steve Stone's early goal in the first leg proving decisive in a contest that Auxerre largely dominated, home and away. Lyons defeated Farense, of Portugal, 2-0 on aggregate in the first round before an overall 4-1 success against *Lazio*, in which they won 2-0 in Italy in the second leg.

Though Forest, priced at 25-1 to win the cup, should be wary of assuming that they can reach the quarter-finals, they will be grateful to have missed Bayern Munich, Benfica, PSV Eindhoven, AC Milan and Werder Bremen at this stage. Pick of the round is Bayern against Benfica, clubs that have won the European Cup five times between them.

DRAW: Bayern Munich v Benfica, Bordeaux v Real Betis, Brondby v Roma; PSV Eindhoven v Werder Bremen, AC Milan v Sparta Prague; Nottingham Forest v Lyons; Seville v Barcelona; Slavia Prague v Lens. Ties to be played on November 21 and December 5.

New survey reveals wide abuse of drugs

By John Goodbody

ONE in four young professional footballers take social drugs, ranging from cannabis and cocaine to crack and LSD, a television programme will claim tomorrow.

The Football Association, which has been concerned over the past year both with the confession of Paul Merson that he took cocaine and also by the number of positive tests for recreational drugs, may be further shaken by the new survey of 100 youngsters with London clubs.

The London Programme also states that two internationals — Chris Waddle, of Sheffield Wednesday, and Dennis Wise, of Chelsea — have been targeted by pushers.

The confidential survey was carried out by London Weekend Television on 100 players aged 16 to 18. They were all from London clubs and attended Kingsway College, King's Cross, where they study when not training.

A total of 92 per cent have been offered drugs and 26 per cent have taken drugs. Of the drug-takers, the breakdown of users was: cannabis 82 per cent, Ecstasy 25 per cent, amphetamines 14 per cent, cocaine 11 per cent, crack and/or LSD 3 per cent.

A spokeswoman for the Football Association said: "One in four young professional footballers in London may have experimented with drugs, but this should be put into context. Seven out of ten youngsters in Manchester have experimented. This is not just a football problem."

Victory for Bowe would hammer home heavyweight superiority

Srikumar Sen in Las Vegas believes the best boxer in the division should prove too strong for an ageing Evander Holyfield

Riddick Bowe is the best heavyweight boxer in the world. Far better than any of those who hold titles from various other world bodies. Indeed, Bowe has knocked out Bruce Seldon, the World Boxing Association (WBA) champion, in one round.

There is little doubt that he would deal with Frank Bruno, the World Boxing Council (WBC) champion, and Axel Schulz, the International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion, in similar fashion, if those two organisations allowed Bowe, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) champion, to fight their title-holders. But, because of politics, that can never happen.

Only three men can legitimately question Bowe's claim. They are Evander Holyfield, Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson. Bowe sets out to underline his superiority over Holyfield in a non-title fight here tonight.

Of course, Holyfield's standing has declined somewhat after defeat last year by Michael Moorer, who is not quite in the class of Lewis and Tyson. Holyfield retired after that bout with a heart ailment and returned only five months ago, claiming that he had been cured by a faith healer. Holyfield had been diagnosed as having a non-compliant left ventricle but doctors found that he was indeed better after seeing the faith healer.

"God has restored me," Holyfield said. "I'm thankful God has allowed me to go back to doing something I enjoy doing. They took away my licence but God saw fit to restore me."

When, in his return fight, he met Ray Mercer, who is not highly regarded these days, Holyfield struggled for several rounds and was almost stopped when a cut opened by his right eye. But, with typical Holyfield determination, he fought back to win a points decision.

"I wasn't sure or confident during the fight," Holyfield said. "Once I got cut, I knew I was in a do-or-die situation and had to pick it up. That fact gives me confidence I can do it again if I have to."

Then he said something that raised eyebrows: "I'm hoping that this one will be the fight of the year, without it having to be as gruelling as those other fights of the year."

He was referring to the two other encounters with Bowe. But his remark seemed to show that he might not be the Holyfield of old.

While it is difficult to question Holyfield's right to fight Bowe, there are doubts about whether he has enough left in him to test a man who, at 26, is seven years younger than him and still improving. There are those who believed that, because of his heart problem, Holyfield should have stayed away from the ring. With career earnings of $111 million (£72 million), he could certainly have afforded to retire. The $9 million he is receiving for this contest would not exactly make a difference to his lifestyle.

The last two contests between Holyfield and Bowe were epic battles and the score stands at 1-1. According to the computer, Bowe took 495 blows, Holyfield 710. The first contest was the fiercer and they were still standing on their feet, if only just, at the end. The second was not quite as violent, nor was the result entirely conclusive, even though Holyfield was awarded the contest on points.

The bout was interrupted by a paraglider who landed in the ring in the seventh round and caused the fight to be halted for 20 minutes, breaking the concentration of both fighters and giving them a long rest.

"I'm going to take Bowe out," Holyfield said. "There's no doubt about it. The fight will definitely not go 12. I'll be the victor."

At the weigh-in on Thursday, Holyfield looked in tremendous shape, coming in at 213 pounds. Bowe weighed 240, which is only five pounds heavier than he was for the first encounter with Holyfield and means that he, too, has been training seriously. "I'm just as motivated, but in a different sense," Bowe said. "I know what happened last time and I don't want it to happen again. That's all the motivation I need.

"Evander has tremendous heart and can take a great punch, but I can't let a smaller man whip me no more".

Bowe's trainer, Eddie Futch said: "When he beat Holyfield, Riddick showed all his skills but, before the next fight, he lost his toughness. A cut eye and back injury kept him out of action for six months before the rematch. I had to start the training process all over again.

"In his first fight, he was hanging on every word I said, but, once they get experience, they think they can do it on their own. Riddick thought he could blow Holyfield away the second time. He needs to jab and box as he did in the first fight. If he does, good things will come."

If Bowe can repeat the kind of performance he gave against Jorge Gonzales, the Cuban whom everyone else was avoiding and whom he knocked down in six rounds, he should stop Holyfield around the eighth round.

Drew Docherty, the British bantamweight champion, is to box on despite the death of his most recent opponent, James Murray. Murray, 25, suffered a blood clot and died on October 15, two days after the bout, after failing to regain consciousness. Docherty, 29, said yesterday: "I have decided to carry on boxing mainly because of the reaction of James Murray's father, Kenny, and my own parents, Archie and Maureen." Docherty is to see a bereavement counsellor before his return to the ring.

Manchester overcomes late snag on Games bid

By John Goodbody

MANCHESTER yesterday gained some compensation for failing with two Olympic bids when the city was awarded the 2002 Commonwealth Games. It will be the first time since 1934 that England has staged the Games.

The Commonwealth Games Federation, comprising 51 member nations, voted unanimously for Manchester, which was the sole candidate after Australia and South Africa decided not to bid.

However, Manchester had to overcome a late hitch. The city had not wanted to include shooting on the programme, but New Zealand led about 40 countries in asking that the decision should be reconsidered. Manchester eventually agreed to the request.

Michael Fennell, the chairman of the federation, told the delegates in Bermuda that he had been "extremely impressed with Manchester's facilities".

The Games will open on July 25 and close on August 4 and will include athletics, badminton, bowls, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, judo, shooting, squash, swimming, table tennis, triathlon, weightlifting, and wrestling among individual events. There will also be team sports, which will include netball.

Manchester plans to break even on a £56 million budget, although there will be two large capital investments by the Sports Council. One will be an aquatics centre in Wigan and the other an athletics stadium in Eastlands, on the city's outskirts.

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They're burning the Pope in Lewes tonight

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PLUS: Derwent May's Feather Report, page 4



Follies and isles to escape to this Christmas

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PLUS: Two views of Australia, page 18



The jailer who became Mandela's friend

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PLUS: Kaufman on Hattersley, page 14



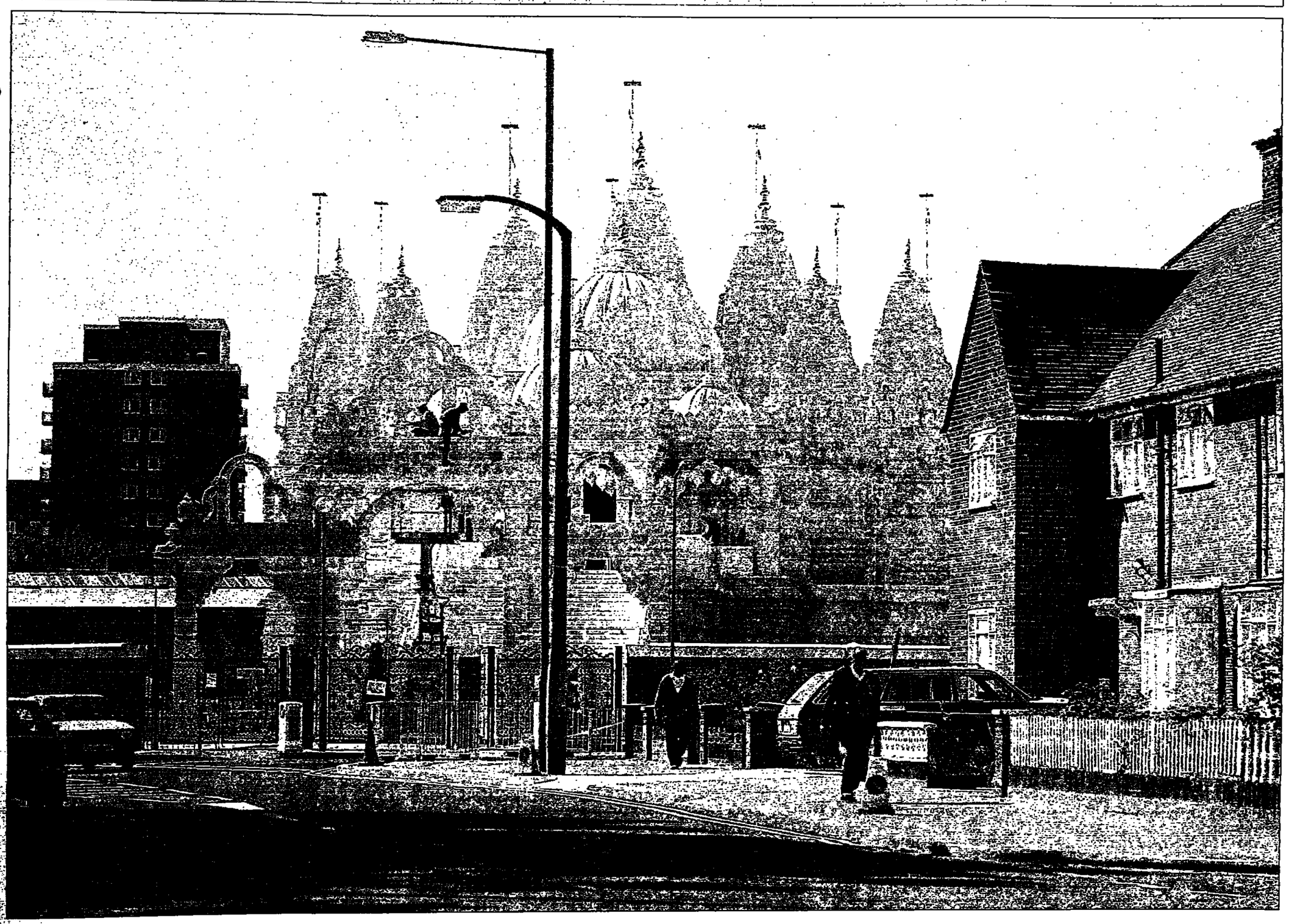
Street-cred bikes to delight the children

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PLUS: Food by post for Christmas, page 6

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4 1995



By Tunku Varadarajan

Rudyard Kipling, whose lucent books are not now read in India, wrote the following lines, which struck me fiercely as a boy. They are from his *Epitaphs of the War*, to a Hindu sepoy in France:

This man in his own country prayed we
know not to what Powers.
We pray Them to reward him for his
bravery in ours.

These lines made my throat go dry, from boyish pride and awkward grief. The dead soldier's powers, you see, were my powers too.

By a process that Kipling would understand better than the modern Indians who do not read him, those powers have now arrived in Neasden. An Indian temple — built of marble, granite and limestone — has come, crumb by careful crumb, to a clumsy English conurbation. At 54-62 Meadow Garth (off the Brentfield Road), London NW10 8HD, a do-it-yourself place of worship sits congruously within sight of the IKEA home-furnishing tower; a raucous Eng . . . er . . . land roar away — or a pop-star's sordid shout — from Wembley stadium. The Hindu religion has ever aimed at accommodating itself to circumstances.

Neasden, one might say, is a most intriguing circumstance. Satirical *Private Eye* magazine's cultural punching bag — "Naffville" or, better, "Naffabad" — is home today to thousands of Indians, most from East Africa. It has Britain's richest seam of Patels, Shahs and Desais, all of whom arrived in 1972 with just £5 in their pockets (as public legend would have it), a worriedly crammed suitcase in one hand, Ugandan expulsion orders in the other.

Uganda is another rich chuckle-word in *Private Eye* (or used to be), but to Neasden's Gujaratis it became, under Idi Amin, a place of terror and torment, of lost hopes and businesses, of an ethnic cleansing which happened before the phrase itself was minted. Kampala was the Krajina of the Gujarati man in the English corner shop.

Evicted, the Gujaratis came to this country in their thousands, to Leicester, Tooting, Wembley. To Neasden. Twenty-three years later, they have built their own temple there.

I was born in an urban Hindu home, awkwardly assembled in its attitude to faith, my father religious, my mother less so. A small shrine in the house (called the "*puja* room") was where my father, small brother and I recited Sanskrit scriptures every evening, cross-legged on the floor, our foreheads touched with sacred ash. This was part of our natural routine: cricket, spinning tops, kites, sneaked cigarettes in the back garden, the stamp album, marble-playing and other sorts of contests all had to stop at prayer time. We did not always come willingly, my brother and I, and our father often had to warn us to be good.

The *Vishnu Sahasranamam* — the thousand names of Vishnu — I learnt by heart, as well as prayers to Shiva, Ganesh, Lakshmi, Hanuman, Murugan and others. Their images at home seemed always benign: small, usually reproduced in brass, swathed in strips of silk, the more precious kept under lock and key. How unlike their counterparts in Indian temples they were.

My relationship with temples, with their bolder idols and the press of mass devotion, started badly. It took me many years to overcome my fear of those temples. My first real introduction to them came in 1968. After five years as a diplomat in New York, my father was posted back to India. My parents, sensing that it was their last chance to enjoy a holiday together — unburdened by

Continued on page 3, col 1



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GALLERIES

Richard Cork

ART AND POWER: *Tyranny* rules at the Hayward Gallery, where the monstrous ambitions of Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin dominate everything on display. All three dictators realised how important art and architecture could be in boosting their power. They wanted painters and sculptors to be instruments of propaganda, and crushed anyone who showed an independent spirit. The results, especially in Germany and the Soviet Union, were disastrous. Artists became supine illustrators of totalitarian dogma, while architects prepared towering monuments to megalomania. Relief is supplied by Picasso's *Guernica*, commissioned by the Spanish Republic for its pavilion at the 1937 Paris Exhibition. And exiled Germans, from Beckmann to Kokoschka, managed to maintain their individual visions despite the persecution.
Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-261 0127), until January 21. Ⓢ

NEW WORLD IMAGERY: Since the 1920s, art in Jamaica has developed a strong identity of its own. The liveliness of the island's current scene is celebrated in an enjoyable show at the Arnolfini in Bristol. Most of the painters, notably Leonard Daley and Raz Dizzy, have a pronounced expressionist flavour. Daley is proud of his lack of professional training, and flourishes on instinct. Milton George is more aware of European painters, and Dizzy's excitable brushwork stands out. A quieter and more dreamlike approach governs Anna Henriques's secretive drawers full of objects, while David Boxer's collages prove that melancholy memories of colonisation cannot easily be ousted. But the show's overall mood is energetic and optimistic.
Arnolfini, Narrow Quay, Bristol (0117 9299191), until November 12.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

DAVID MURRAY/ORNETTE COLEMAN: The American tenor player David Murray always seems to have half-a-dozen new albums out on different labels at any given time. Live appearances, in this country at least, have been less prolific. On this occasion he goes on tour with his UK Posse, a band originally put together for the



Ornette Coleman plays at the Festival Hall, London

Bath Festival last year, with the effervescent Gerard Presencer on trumpet and Orphy Robinson on marimba. Ornette Coleman, meanwhile, continues to dabble with trumpet and violin, video installations and his hip-hopping electric band, Prime Time.
Murray: Belfast Festival — **The Guinness Spot** (01232 666321), Tues 7, Wed 8, 8.30pm; **Top of O'Reilly's** (0115 941 9741), Thur 9, 8pm; **Arnolfini**, Bristol (01179 299191), Fri 10, 8pm; **Watermans Arts Centre**, Brentford Ⓢ (0181-568 1176), Sat 11, 10.30pm.
Coleman: **Festival Hall**, South Bank, London SE1 Ⓢ (0171-960 4242). Wed 8, 7.30pm.

RANDY SANDKE: When Carnegie Hall recently mounted an all-star tribute to Louis Armstrong, it was Randy Sandke's frisky big band arrangements of the Hot Five classics that stood out most vividly. A youthful sideman with Benny Goodman in the King of Swing's final years, Sandke has carved a niche for himself as a formidable mainstream trumpeter. On Thursday and Saturday his group will be joined by another gifted American revivalist, the tenor saxophonist Harry Allen.
The Hungry Horse, Kenley Rd, New Malden (0181-949 7274), Mon 6; **Eden Court Theatre**, Bishop's Road, Inverness Ⓢ (01463 234234), Tues 7; **Pizza Express**, Dean St, London W1 (0171-439 0747), Thur 9 to Sat 11, from 8.30pm.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

BIRMINGHAM BIRTHDAY: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 75th birthday this week with two anniversary concerts that mix Beethoven's Choral Symphony with specially commissioned new pieces by John Adams and Oliver Knussen. Also, on Saturday, the orchestra is holding an open day, with many free events planned throughout the afternoon. There is plenty to celebrate. Under Sir Simon Rattle's leadership, the CBSO has risen to the top rank, and is probably unsurpassed for adventurous programming. This autumn's series of all the Beethoven symphonies has been a particular triumph, since Rattle and his orchestra made even this much-travelled repertoire seem fresh and exciting. Let us hope that Rattle sticks around for at least a few of the next 75 years.
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham (0121-212 3333), Fri 10, Sat 11, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

PREVIN RETURNS: After a series of concerts with its new principal conductor, Sir Colin Davis, the London Symphony Orchestra now makes music with one of its former bosses, André Previn. He returns to the Barbican in the company of the peerless German violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter. She plays the Beethoven Violin Concerto, which is not exactly an unusual choice. But before that, Previn conducts a real rarity, and an attractive one at that: the Symphony for Classical Orchestra written in 1947 by the American neo-classical composer Harold Shapero.
Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Wed 8, Thur 9, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Who would have thought that J.B. Priestley's *moralising thriller* would pick up awards galore in both London and New York, and now make yet another comeback in the heart of the West End? The reason, of course, is Stephen Daldry's stunningly inventive direction, which combines with Ian McNeil's oddball sets to transform the painstakingly chronicled tale of an Edwardian family's destruction of a harmless girl into a majestic denunciation of our century's callousness, hubris and greed.



Heinrich Kerr's *Portrait of Hitler* is among the images on display at the Hayward Gallery in London

Garrick, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-494 5085). Evenings: Mon to Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; matinées: Wed, 2.30pm; Sat, 5pm.

RAT IN THE SKULL: Is Daldry's bravura imagination hijacking central London? This time, he has ripped out the theatre's stalls, put steel walkways and a tiny, earth-filled platform in their place, and brought new intensity to his revival of Ron Hutchinson's marvellous play about the violent grilling of a suspected IRA man by an RUC cop. With Rufus Sewell as the victim and Tony Doyle as his persecutor, the effect is of a battle between a modern-day Cain and Abel, two Ulster brothers bonded as much as separated by a shared history and a common land.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-836 5122). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.30pm; matinées: Thur, Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

JOHN KEATS 1795-1821: As the year progresses, the celebrations of the bi-centenary of Keats's birth gather momentum. The British Library's contribution, an augmented version of the show seen earlier in the year at Dove Cottage in the Lake District, draws on the Library's unrivalled collection of first editions and manuscripts, as well as portraits and other relics borrowed from elsewhere. Here one can actually gaze on the original manuscript of the *Ode to a Nightingale*, and observe how Victorian artists' obsession with Keats produced some key works of 19th-century British art. If the man himself remains shadowy compared with his writings, that is probably just as it should be.



The dying Keats: from the British Library exhibition

British Library Exhibition Galleries, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-412 7111). Mon to Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.30-6pm, until January 28. Ⓢ

BUILDINGS IN PROGRESS: Sir John Soane seems to have been unusual among architects in taking a passionate interest in the progress of building on his main designs. It was his regular practice to send off pupils to make pictorial records of construction on the Bank of England, Dulwich Picture Gallery and his additions to Chelsea Hospital. This was partly so that he could keep a wary eye on possibly shoddy building practices and partly because he regarded the making of these drawings as valuable training. Much of the art included is vivid in itself as well as informative about Regency methods of construction.
Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2 (0171-405 2107). Tues to Sat, 10am-5pm; also first Tues in month 6-9pm, until March 9.

DANCE

John Percival

SWAN LAKE: Tchaikovsky's music, but swans with a difference in Matthew Bourne's new treatment for his company Adventures in Motion Pictures. Instead of a Swan Queen, Royal Ballet star Adam Cooper appears on loan to play the mysterious swan who fascinates the hero; former RB ballerina Fiona Chadwick is Siegfried's mother. Do not expect the sort of clever, camp jokes on which Bourne based his popular reinterpretations of *The Nutcracker* and *La Sylphide*; he says he is playing this one straight, taking his ideas from the music. Lez Brotherston's name promises well for the design, and the New London Orchestra will be in the pit with David Lloyd Jones conducting.
Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Ave, London EC1 (0171-713 6000), Thur 9, 7.30pm; matinées: Sat, Thur, 2.30pm, until November 25.

DANCE UMBRELLA: Final week of this year's London-wide festival of new dance. Richard Alston's new programme (Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45pm) and the Japanese Ariadone (The Place, 8pm) finish tonight, and Aletta Collins (Riverside, 7.30pm) tomorrow. That leaves only the gifted and often outrageous Javier de Frutos at the Purcell Room, with pianists Elena Riu and Peter Bridges (Tues, Wed, 8pm), and the London premiere of Second Stride's *Badenheim*, at Riverside (Thur to next Sat, 7.30pm) with a cast of dancers, actors, singers and musicians in Ian Spink's choreography and Orlando Gough's music.
Queen Elizabeth Hall and **Purcell Room**, South Bank, London SE1 Ⓢ (0171-960 4242); **The Place Theatre**, Dukes Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031), 8pm; **Riverside Studios**, Crisp Road, London W6 Ⓢ (0181-741 2255), 7.30pm.

ROCK

David Sinclair

ANITA BAKER: A soul diva in the classic mould, Anita Baker combines textbook precision with a relaxed, natural warmth. She has taken time off to start a family since the glory days of her multi-million-selling albums *Rapture* (1986) and *Giving You The Best That I've Got* (1988), and these are her first British dates since 1990. But as well as recording last year's low-key comeback album *Rhythm of Love*, she has also contributed to Frank Sinatra's *Duets* album and performs *When You Love Someone* with James Ingram on the soundtrack of the Billy Crystal/Debra Winger movie, *Forget Paris*.
NEC, Birmingham Ⓢ (0121-767 4678), Nov 8; **Wembley Arena**, Middlesex Ⓢ (0181-900 1234), Nov 10; **Manchester Apollo** Ⓢ (0161-832 1111), Nov 11.

FOO FIGHTERS: The band that has risen out of the ashes of Nirvana. Foo Fighters nearly caused a riot when they played a set in the crushingly over-attended Melody Maker tent at the Reading Festival this summer. Led by vocalist and guitarist Dave Grohl (formerly the drummer in Nirvana), the four-piece dishes out a post-grunge cocktail of high voltage rock 'n' roll with sometimes magical results on its self-titled debut album. The opportunity to check out their live show in more civilised conditions is eagerly awaited.
Wolverhampton Civic Hall Ⓢ (01902 312030), Nov 10; **Barrowlands**, Glasgow (0141-332 1120), Nov 11; **Town and Country**, Leeds Ⓢ (0113 2800100), Nov 12; **Brixton Academy**, London SW9 Ⓢ (0171-924 9999), Nov 14, 15; SFX, Dublin (00353) 4569569), Nov 17.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

FARINELLI (15): Opera, sex and frocks: this art-house movie has all the most enticing ingredients. Gérard Corbiau's film about the life of the 18th-century castrato singer lays out its attractions for everyone to see, though a wayward script and a lack of visual punch reduces the material's potency. Stéfano Dionisi plays the eunuch whose voice charms the courts of Europe and causes ladies to swoon; Enrico Lo Verso is the composer brother who helps him to perform sexual favours. Nobody was castrated for the soundtrack: Farinelli's voice is an electronic composite of Ewa Mallas Godlewska, a Polish soprano, and Derek Lee Ragin, an American counter-tenor.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891); **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720); **MGMs: Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636), **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148); **Richmond** (0181-332 0030).

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL: Something for everyone in the festival's first weekend. Connoisseurs may relish Harvey Keitel wandering through the Balkans in Angelopoulos's *Ulysses' Gaze* or Tran An Hung's *Cyclo*, an explosive successor to *The Scent of Green Papaya*. Others may fancy a fascinating documentary about gays in Hollywood, *The Celluloid Closet*, or Jim Jarmusch's existential Western *Dead Man*. Those who need family fun can see *The Sound of Music* and the much-praised *A Little Princess*, based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The historically minded, meanwhile, should make a date with Jacques Feyder's entrancing *Visages d'enfants* and the all-talking, all-singing, all-dancing, all-wonderful *Paramount on Parade*, with three numbers sung by Maurice Chevalier, including *Sweeping the Clouds Away*.
National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 3232).

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

LA BELLE HELENE: Offenbach's extra-brut champagne music, John Wells's saucy new translation, a rampaging star performance of the title role from Anne Howells and a determinedly cheeky one from Tracey Welborn as Paris — the combination makes Scottish Opera's new production irresistible. It is also irresistibly pretty in the Christian Rätz-Agostino Cavalca decor, and Emmanuel Joël conducts with properly Gallic wit. A perfect shot in the arm as the nights draw in.
Theatre Royal, Hope St, Glasgow Ⓢ (0141-332 9000), today, 2.15pm; **Theatre Royal**, Grey St, Newcastle upon Tyne Ⓢ (0191-232 2061), Tues 7, Fri 10, 7.15pm.

OWEN WINGRAVE: Britten's "problem" opera, a strange mixture of pacifist fervour and Henry James ghost story, was created for television and has never quite been accepted into the canon. Glyndebourne Touring Opera has now mounted the first major new production for more than 20 years; the



Glyndebourne Touring Opera performs *Owen Wingrave*

director Robin Phillips makes his British operatic debut, and the fine cast is headed by William Dazeley, Elizabeth Gale, Edith Pritchard, Neil Jenkins and Eiddwen Harrhy. Ivor Bolton conducts. Check it out.
Theatre Royal, Royal Parade, Plymouth (01752-267222), Fri 10, 7.15pm. Ⓢ

Ⓢ **THE CABINET OF DOKTOR CALIGARI** A stage version of the German silent classic. Good sets, unearthly music, pointless dancing but a haunting performance by John Ramm as Matthew Kelly's sleepwalking killer. Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm Ⓢ

☐ **COMMUNICATING DOORS:** Alan Ayckbourn's ingenious time-travel play. Julia McKenzie flees from a vengeful enemy via the doors of a hotel that take her forward and back a decade. **Gielgud**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5530) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

Ⓢ **THE COUNTRY GIRL:** Annie Castledine directs Conn Redgrave and Kika Markham in Clifford Odets's celebrated backstage drama of love, drink and marital protection. **Greenwich**, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755) Previews today, 2.30 and 7.45pm, opens Mon, 7pm Ⓢ

☐ **DEAD FUNNY.** Brenda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sean Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics and some of their fans. **Savoy**, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm. Ⓢ

Ⓢ **EDDIE IZZARD:** The quirky comedian returns for another season of surreal musings on life. **Shaftesbury**, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2 (0171-379 5399) Tue-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

☐ **FUNNY MONEY:** Roy Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce: Charlie Drake excellent as a sorely tried taxi-driver. **Playhouse**, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm Ⓢ

☐ **HOBSON'S CHOICE:** Leo McKern in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichola McAuliffe and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law. Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

☐ **THE HOTHOUSE.** Assailed by cries in a mysterious detention centre, Harold Pinter is marvellously funny, heading the strong cast in his own, long-buried play

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only Ⓢ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

Ⓢ **JOLSON.** The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs enjoyably and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler.
Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1



Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* at the Garrick

(0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

Ⓢ **MACK AND MABEL:** The Jerry Herman musical set in early Hollywood where the careers of Mack Sennett and Mabel Normand unfold and clash. Fine songs, though a troublesome book. Paul Kerryson directs Howard McGillin and Caroline O'Sullivan in the leads.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Now previewing, 7.45pm; mat today, 3pm. Opens Nov 7.

Ⓢ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS.** See Critics' Choice, above.

Ⓢ **MACBETH** Enjoyable production, with Lennie James, Helen McCrory, sometimes more fire from the pyrotechnic design than from the speeches
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2pm and Sat, 4pm Ⓢ

☐ **THE MASTER BUILDER:** Peter Hall's cosy version of Ibsen, with Alan Bates, Gemma Jones and Victoria Hamilton.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

Ⓢ **MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN:** Diana Rigg in title role of Brecht's epic denunciation of war. Jonathan Kent directs a new version by David Hare.
National (Oliver), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews tonight-Nov 13, 7.15pm; mats Nov 9 and 11, 2pm. Opens Nov 14, 7pm. Then in rep Ⓢ

☐ **ONE FLEA SPARE:** Fascinating play by Naomi Wallace, set in plague-stricken London where an assortment of trapped people break social and sexual boundaries. Top class acting.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388), Mon-Sat, 8pm.

☐ **A PATRIOT FOR ME:** James Wilby plays the glum Austro-Hungarian officer trapped by his homosexuality into betraying his emperor. John Osborne's play may be a parable of the 1960s but it is undoubtedly very long at four hours.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Thurs, 7.15pm; mats today and Thurs, 2pm. Ⓢ

Ⓢ **PRISONER CELL BLOCK H: THE MUSICAL.** Dreadful musical version of the trash TV show. With Lily Savage.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm.

☐ **RAT IN THE SKULL:** Tony Doyle and Rufus Sewell battle out the torments of Ulster in Ron Hutchinson's engrossing play. Stephen Daldry directs.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

Ⓢ **STRIKE:** Strong and searing dramatisation of an excerpt from Hubert Selby's celebrated novel *Last Exit to Brooklyn*. Not for the squeamish
BAC, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tue-Sat, 7.30; Sun, 5.30pm Ⓢ

☐ **TAKING SIDES:** Enthralling drama by Ronald Harwood, based on the investigations of conductor Furtwängler's alleged Nazi sympathies. Superb performances by Daniel Massey and Michael Pennington
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, WC2 (0171-369 1747) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

Ⓢ **THREE TALL WOMEN:** Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **VENICE PRESERVED:** Otway's rarely staged tragedy, seriously weakened by poor central performance
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm Ⓢ

☐ **VIVATI VIVAT REGINA!** Janet McTeer and Barbara Flynn play the queens in Robert Bolt's now old-fashioned drama of the rivalry between Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots.
Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (0171-236 2211) Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, 2pm and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

Ⓢ **Blood Brothers.** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . ☐ **Crazy for You:** Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) . . . ☐ **Dead Guilty:** Apollo (0171-494 5070) . . ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe:** Albery (0171-369 1730) . . Ⓢ **The Importance of Being Earnest:** Old Vic (0171-928 7616) . . Ⓢ **Indian Ink.** Aldwych (0171-416 6003) . . ■ **Oliver!** Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . ■ **Starlight Express.** Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard.** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . Ⓢ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

CRIMSON TIDE (15): Antique heroics in a nuclear submarine, with Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington. Director, Tony Scott
Odeon Leicester Sq (01426-915 683)

FARINELLI (15): See Critics' Choice, above.

◆ FRENCH KISS (12) Dizzy Meg Ryan gets entangled with French rogue Kevin Kline. Charmless romantic comedy, directed by Lawrence Kasdan.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ JADE (18) Nasty, mendacious thriller about the nipples caused by a millionaire's murder, with David Caruso, Linda Fiorentino and Chazz Palminteri. Director, William Friedkin.
Empire Ⓢ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ APOLLO 13 (PG): The near-fatal moon mission of 1970. Splendid images, but conventional drama. With Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon and Ed Harris, Ron Howard directs.
Empire (0990 888000) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 096) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ ASSASSINS (15): Cat and mouse games between contract killers. Reasonable action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone, Antonio Banderas, Julianne Moore
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY (12) Best-selling romantic tosh given the kid-glove treatment by director Clint Eastwood, who co-stars with Meryl Streep

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Panton Street** (0171-930 0631) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914096) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

CARRINGTON (18): Stumbling account of an odd Bloomsbury romance, dominated by Jonathan Pryce's Lytton Strachey. With Emma Thompson as the painter Dora Carrington.
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721) **Minema** (0171-235 4225)

◆ CLUELESS (12): Life and empty minds of Beverly Hills teenagers. Frivolous fun from director Amy Heckerling, with Alicia Silverstone.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ HAUNTED (15): Ghost sceptic Aidan Quinn revises his opinions while staying in a stately home. Laboured version of James Herbert's novel.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

LAND AND FREEDOM (15). Ken Loach's powerful Spanish Civil War drama, with Ian Hart, Rosana Pastor.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ MORTAL KOMBAT (15) Cinema version of the video game, all fights and special effects. With Christopher Lambert. Director, Paul Anderson
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

THE NEON BIBLE (15): A sensitive boy's childhood in the American Bible Belt. Disappointing film from director Terence Davies: with Gena Rowlands and Jacob Tierney
Lumiere (0171-836 0691) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

NIGHTWATCH (18): Morgue nightwatchman gets the jitters. Danish thriller with a few classy trimmings. Director, Ole Bornedal
Metro (0171-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561)

◆ THE NET (12): New technology, but enjoyable old thrills, with Sandra Bullock as a computer expert in peril.



Stéfano Dionisi as the castrato in *Farinelli*

MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ NINE MONTHS (12) Hugh Grant's Hollywood debut, a messy, crude comedy about parenthood from *Home Alone* director Chris Columbus. With Julianne Moore
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914096) **Screen/ Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ POCAHONTAS (U): Strangely dull slice of American history: a backward step for Disney cartoons after *Aladdin* and *The Lion King*.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

IL POSTINO (U): Heartwarming delight about a simple man opening his eyes to poetry. Wonderful performance by the late Massimo Troisi; Michael Radford directs
Gate Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** Ⓢ (0171-435 3366)

◆ SPECIES (18). Mutant heroine causes havoc in LA. Nasty, flat-footed creature feature.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

◆ TO DIE FOR (15): Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ UNDER SIEGE 2 (18): *Die Hard* on a train, with an impassive star (Steven Seagal), a grinning villain (Eric Bogosian), and much tedious action.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

THE WILD BUNCH (18): William Holden's outlaws have one last, bloody fling. Sam Peckinpah's classic Western of 1969, with ten minutes restored.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

هكذا من الاصل

'There's a lesson for India in Neasden'

Continued on page 3, col 1

their growing, inquisitive sons — decided to dispatch their children ahead to the care of grandparents in Bombay. This was how my brother, four years old, and I, six, stepped, bewildered and alone, off a plane from New York — and into my grandfather's pistachio-green Fiat. We were then driven from Bombay, on the western coast of India, to the Venkateshwara Temple in Tirupati, 850km to the southeast.

My grandfather (a hearty Indian Army man, with whom I was to drink much rum and gin in later years) and my grandmother (not quite hearty but very indulgent) had decided that their grandlambs needed to be ritually sheared. The temple at Tirupati, India's richest and most crowded (it receives more visitors each day than Mecca or the Vatican), is where Hindu devotees have always gone to shave their heads and to make an offering of their shorn hair to the local deity, Venkateshwara.

This is thought to be "cleansing", but for a little boy it is frightening. I will not forget the man at the temple advancing on me with a razor, or the helpless terror in my small brother's brown eyes, but we somehow jostled into a large hall with all our hair and jostled out again with none. Thousands of others did this, too; our boyish locks were swept away to join some vast mound of offerings made by newly tonsured Hindus.

The temples of the Hindu religion — unlike mosques and Christian churches — are bustling places, often squelchy underfoot and sometimes manned by paunchy priests who pay devotees little regard. For someone whose prayer at home was pacific and introspective, visits to these sites of gaudy worship soon took on the nature of nightmare.

At the temple in Vishwanath *gali* (lane) in Banaras, I was elbowed by old women desperate for a splash on their palms of holy water from the river Ganges, dispensed by a priest who had his mind on other things. ("Not Ganges water on my tongue, But drops of wine shall bring relief," wrote the poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan, in his iconoclastic *Madhushala*).

At the Tulsi Manas temple, in the same city, a monkey snatched a banana from my hand: when I moved to fling a pebble at it, I was cursed at by a man in saffron for whom the monkey was related to the god Hanuman. (Monier Williams, Boden Professor of Sanskrit at Oxford in the 19th century, said of Indian monkeys in his *Religious Thought and Life in India*: "... they are quite as ungodlike in their habits in the regions where they are worshipped as the most mischievous monkeys in any other part of the world.")

There was worse. At the beehive-shaped Kamakhya temple in Assam, in eastern India, I stepped with bare feet into the fresh blood of pigeons, sacrificed in their scores to the goddess Kali by the priests. And in villages throughout Rajasthan — a province as parched as it is feudal — I came across temple after temple where a lowness of caste or birth barred villagers from entering the inner sanctum.

As I grew older, and better able to absorb the complexity of Hindu temples, those elemental fears and revulsions gradually receded. They were replaced by other fears, to which I will return. But I began to see beyond the mill of people, and the pungent smells of prayer, beyond the coarse crush of devotees and the apparent waste — in offerings to the deity — of milk and food and ghee.

I did not find devotion, but I learned to live with the force of spirit which other Hindus carried within them. That spirit is present most clearly in the architecture of every temple, in the sculptured form of the ritual flame, in stone idols grave and gorgeous, women and men at prayer, and the Vedic chant of brachycephalic Brahmins.

And I discerned that in the apparent anarchy of the religion into which I was born, there is also tolerance and an even temper. I found that spirit, most of all, in the Dravidian temples of my ancestral Tamil land — in Madurai, in Tanjore (where my father was born), and in the temple at Mahabalipuram by the sea.

I found that spirit in Neasden, too.

The new Swaminarayan Temple, already a landmark in London, is the product of a "mighty creative process". I place those words in quotes because they belong to Sir Vidia Naipaul, that most brahminical of observers. He did not intend the observation for Neasden, but for events in Ayodhya, a small town about 150km east of Lucknow, on the Indo-Gangetic plain.

You may recall that episode in December 1993, for it had a searing, millennarian quality. An uncontrollable horde of Hindus — swarming over, around and below the 16th-century Babri mosque — tore down the structure with their bare, hands. The mosque is believed by many to stand on the birthplace of the Hindu god Ram, so it was gouged out to make way for a new temple to him. Yet in that rubble of dust, glee, gloating and demolition, some of my lost fear of temples returned.

Sir Vidia called it a "mighty creative process," as if echoing these lines by Octavio Paz from his poem *Vrindaban* (which, curiously, is the birthplace of Krishna, another god of the Hindu pantheon):

I know what I know and I write it / The embodiment of time / The act / The movement in which the whole being is sculptured and destroyed / Consciousness and hands to grasp the hour / I am a history / A memory inventing itself.

I cannot agree with Sir Vidia because, though his process is no doubt "mighty", I fail to see how it is "creative", in the honest sense of that word. And if creation of temples there is to be, Neasden provides by far the better paradigm. For if the forces of indignation, bitterness and no little political opportunism were at work in Ayodhya, the temple at Neasden is a product of the more benign face of Hinduism.

It reflects religious pride, of course, and that is its most apparent virtue. It reflects a sense of community as well, and that is a virtue more subtle. It was built entirely with labour volunteered, and money too, by men and women who clasp their faith as tenaciously as they do their secular professions.

Accountants, shopkeepers, lawyers, actuaries, bank clerks, traders, mechanics, schoolteachers, brokers, newsagents, restaurateurs, train drivers, dentists, pharmacists, doctors, schoolboys and schoolgirls took no wages to work on the site, and did so in their spare time — before work, after school, at weekends, on Bank Holidays, on holiday from work and study. A community came together to build, renewing its own values.

This Hindu throng swarmed not on the edifice of another faith but over land lawfully acquired. And gradually they created — slab by marble slab and timber by carved timber — a temple to tolerance in London, a city of no mean tolerance itself.

"Somewhere in Neasden there is a lesson for India," wrote Swapan Dasgupta of *The Indian Express* in the story he sent home when the temple was first opened.

Somewhere in Neasden there is a lesson for India. A simple, gentle thought with which to close a troubled question.

● *The author is a* Times *leader writer.*



AFP

Hindus tear down the 16th-century Babri mosque, birthplace of the Hindu god Ram. Below, the temples at Madurai



COLOURIFIC



Shaved heads in India: Tunku Varadarajan (right) in 1968, with his younger brother

Medieval temple for a modern age

THE Swaminarayan temple in Neasden, northwest London, shares none of the characteristics of the buildings which encircle it. It is, instead, faithful to the tenets of medieval Hindu temple architecture. This style, initiated during Indian history's Gupta period (between the fourth and sixth centuries AD), achieved its finest expression in the north of the country from the ninth to the 11th centuries.

Diverging from the southern Dravidian idiom of temple architecture, the north Indian style was distinguished by its use of the *shikhar*, or pinnacle. This can be curvilinear or rectilinear in shape. The Neasden temple has the latter variety, its central pinnacle (surrounded by a row of smaller spires) topped with the *kalash*, a pot-shaped finial. Beneath the finial is a cap stone in the shape of a grooved disc, the *amalasaraka*).



The Neasden temple: no steel or iron was used

NEASDEN's temple took 27 months to build, and used 2,828 tonnes of Bulgarian limestone, 2,000 tonnes of Indian and Italian marble, and 127 tonnes of granite. No steel or iron was used; the slabs and pieces of stone were slotted together in the manner of a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle.

T.V.

Cover picture, and the above picture, of the Neasden temple by RAY MAIN

Ruth Gledhill attends the final of *The Times* Preacher of the Year award

Purity from the pulpit



IF RECEIVED, secular wisdom was any guide, the offer of six sermons in a row should by rights have ensured an empty church for the final of *The Times*/ College of Preachers Preacher of the Year award. But even though it was partly obscured by scaffolding, this spacious, revivalist St Pancras Church was packed full for the two-hour service to choose the best of six.

More than 500 preachers, both ordained and lay, and from all the leading denominations, entered the competition. A shortlist was drawn up after a carefully scrutinised judging process and all 30 were visited in their churches before the final six were chosen.

Judges included John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, and Sir Ludovic Kennedy, the broadcaster and well-known atheist, who was chosen because organisers believed preachers should be able to preach to the unconverted as well as the converted. The preachers had each been given a beatitude from the Sermon on the Mount, that day's gospel text, to talk on.

After a welcome by the parish priest, the Rev Brendan Clover, an introduction by Canon Roger Royle, of Southwark Cathedral, and a hymn, we were off. The first preacher, Gill Dascombe, a lay preacher and pharmacist from Macclesfield, ascended the exceptionally high pulpit with remarkable calm.

"How blest are those who know their need of God; the kingdom of heaven is theirs," was her text. She described her devastation on learning she had skin cancer. "The most destructive entity we can face is not death, it is fear," she said.

Canon Jeremy Davies, precentor of Salisbury Cathedral, was next: "How blest are the sorrowful; they shall find consolation." He told a story of Vera, whose husband was dying of cancer. "Where there's life, there's hope," the vicar had told her, but she thought it would be truer to say, for a Christian, "Where there's death, there's hope."

It was already clear how difficult this contest would be to judge, and it became more difficult after the sermon by our next preacher, Dr Alison Fry, a former scientist who is in her third year of ministerial training at St John's College, Durham. She spoke on "How blest are those of a gentle spirit; they shall have the earth for their possession." Read literally, these words are not true, she said. "They get walked over. They go to the wall." But read another way, the picture is of heaven and earth mingling together, "of extraordinary made ordinary, of ordinary made saints".

The Rev Dr Richard Major, curate at Truro Cathedral, followed Dr Fry into the pulpit. He preached on the blessedness of those who hunger and thirst to see right prevail. Next came Dr Edmund Marshall, a lecturer in management science and both an Anglican lay reader and a Methodist local preacher, preaching on how blessed are the merciful.

At this point, the service had long overrun and the organisers cancelled the last hymn. As the last preacher, the Rev Barry Overend, vicar of St Chad's Headingley, Leeds, climbed the well-worn pulpit steps, I did not think he had a chance. Speaking fast, he surprised us all with a stunning sermon that proved to be the winner and sent the congregation out laughing. His beatitude, "How blest are those whose hearts are pure; they shall see God", demanded a "Mr Spock approach," he said. He could imagine the *Star Trek* hero pondering the text and concluding: "It's purity Jim, but not as we know it."

He described a certain "Mrs Wentworth" — unselfish, not hypocritical, thinking good thoughts and possessing that "almost indefinable something extra". He said: "Purity of heart is like humility — thinking that you've got it is a sure sign that you haven't." The pure in heart don't shine, they reflect the glory of that God whom one day they shall see. The ultimate irony, though, was that his Mrs Wentworth, the epitome of purity, does not believe in God. Asked why, her response was simple: "Because I've never seen him."

Any fears on my part that the day had been too long or too dull were dispelled by the shining faces and smiles of the congregation as they left the chilly church for the chillier November air.

The final of the Preacher of the Year Award was held at St Pancras Church, Euston Road, London N1A 2BA (0171-837 2146).

AT YOUR SERVICE

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE:
The Rev Brendan Clover.

ARCHITECTURE:
A Grade I listed building in Greek revival style, the second most expensive church in London after St Paul's when it was built as a preaching church in 1822. In need of repair. ★★★

SERMONS:
Almost impossible to choose which was the best of six. ★★★★★

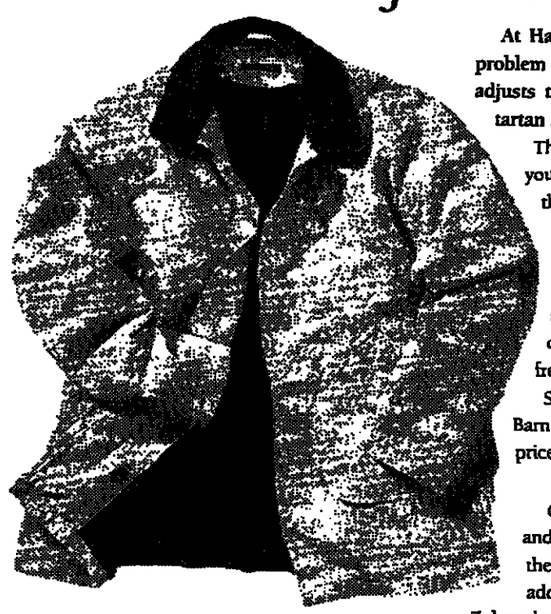
MUSIC:
Anthems such as Howells's *Like as the Hart* sung from the organ loft by the church choir. ★★★★

LITURGY:
Sermons, with texts taken from the New English Bible, interspersed with prayers and hymns. ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE:
Tea, biscuits and cakes for 200 served in church hall by volunteers. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH:
The Word made clear. ★★★★★

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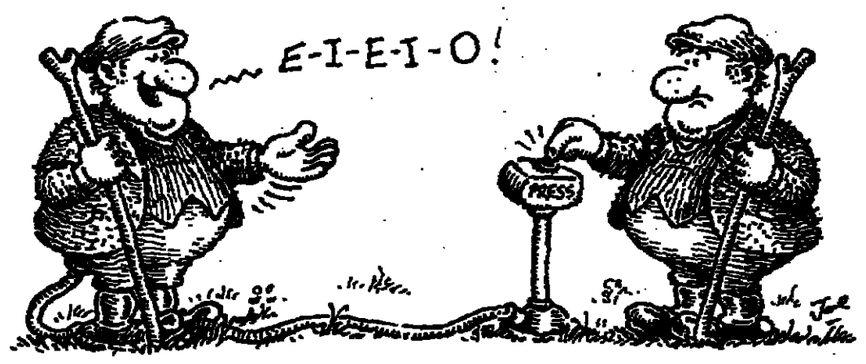
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Old MacDonald's showbiz farm



FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

Somewhere along the line I have missed a trick, and it may have cost me a fortune. It is only now that I realise that I have had within my grasp all the ingredients needed to create a number-one tourist attraction; and I have blown it.

I never quite saw what crowd-pulling power farming has. I don't mean modern farming: that is unspeakably dreary. But the sort of farming that I have been doing, with a jolly mixture of pigs, sheep, cows and carthorses. I thought I was doing it for my personal satisfaction and in the cause of agricultural research; but it has, apparently, got what it takes to have Joe Public queueing down the lane with his fiver.

What brought this home to me was when family duties demanded a visit to Alton Towers. It is, according to recent figures, Britain's biggest tourist attraction. The Tower of London and Buckingham Palace would kill for the numbers who flock through the turnstiles. Even before the gates are open, they are gathering round the ticket booths looking at the map of attractions, trembling in anticipation of the rides. This is what Alton Towers is all about. It has roller-coasters that eclipse all others, wicked machines into which you are strapped and hurtled through the air. They want you to scream, and they are not going to let you go until they have made you.

The most famous ride is called Nemesis. It looks like hell. Children emerge from a stomach-churning, body-inverting ride, gasping: "Wow! We were weightless for four whole seconds!" Some of them are very green.

You might have guessed that it was not for me. If I want to be thrown around this way and that, spun in the air and then dropped to earth, I can get the thrill for free by trying to train our young heifer to the halter. So, instead of Nemesis, I followed my instincts and found a jolly rustic sign directing me to Old MacDonald's Farm.

I walked through the gate, and looked around. Blinked and looked again. Was I back home? Sure enough, there was the rusty chaff-cutter — Albion brand — just like ours. There was an equally rusty oilcake-breaker too; a relic from the days when linseed could be bought in slabs like trays of toffee and had to be broken into bite-size chunks.

Then came the real shock. I had to pinch myself to make sure that I had not died on the Nemesis machine and entered the afterlife. There, lying in a pool of golden straw, was a Large Black pig. Being unable to control the reflex after several years of pig-owning, I could not prevent myself from shouting: "Pig ... pig ... pig ... pig ..." She lifted her head as if she were real. I thought that whichever model-making genius had built this must have had access to the Creator's original plans. She was perfect in every detail. "Pig ... pig ... pig," I muttered. The model gave the precise response to the audio signal that some internal microphone somewhere must be detecting, and pricked up her ears. This must be computer software of the highest order. Then, bringing me to my senses, the sow stood four square on her legs, as they do when they are about to have a piddle, and let forth a stream which no computer could have simulated.

It was a real pig. Here, amid this land of make-believe, which offers you a rush of Staffordshire water and tells you it is a part of the Congo River, they had dared to confuse me by introducing a live farm animal.

I told her that my sow, Alice, sent her love to her distant relative in showbiz, and went to look at the rest of the animals gathered in individual pens in the next-door barn. They were even more fantastic. Do you know they have got a pair of geese that can sing? True. They were the first thing I saw; opening their yellow beaks as wide as they could and giving a spirited rendering of "E–I–E–I–O".

Next door to them was a black and white cow. It was not restricted to the usual mooing; they had taught her not only to sing the verses, but to join in the choruses too. Suspicious by now, I turned to see a huge pink pig with a broad grin get as far as "... and on that farm he had some ..." when the little girl in front let go of the button and the pig stopped.

She then gave the button in front of the hens a jab, and they burst into life. Soon the singing of the automata was loud enough to lift the barn roof. Most disturbing was an isolated pair of legs in wellies standing on wooden steps which went up into a loft, just like ours. There was no body, just legs, tapping to the rhythm. Those legs were wearing the same boots as I do! I pinched myself again.

It was all too disturbing. I emerged from Old MacDonald's Farm more shook up than if I had been on the most violent of Alton Towers' rides. Crestfallen too: for six years I have sat unknowingly on an oil well. Still, perhaps it is not too late to start. Alice has learnt as far as the second verse, and as soon as I can train her to stop singing when I let go of the button, we shall be open for business.

For polite, liberal-minded Lewes, Bonfire Night means a riotous celebration of political incorrectness

Where popes and martyrs go for the burn

They are burning the Pope in our town tonight. There will be flaming torches and tar barrels, heads on poles and "No Popery" banners. This is Lewes, East Sussex, where 17 protestants were martyred and today Guy Fawkes plays second fiddle while His Holiness burns.

There is no other bonfire night like it. Every bedroom in the town is booked months ahead. And they don't come just for the spectacle. They come for the sort of thrill we have almost ruled out of our lives.

"I can't believe they're doing this," someone says every year, as we watch a night of misrule from our house on the high street. The bow windows jut out into the crowds, and through the glass you can feel the heat of the torches.

On this night every year, the population of Lewes swells from 15,000 to 60,000. The doorbell rang so many times on our first November 5 here that we turned the evening into an annual party, with scores of sausages and pints of mulled wine.

We watch about 2,500 marchers dressed as Zulus, Vikings and Red Indians — definitely not Native Americans — and listen to military and jazz bands. Then we pile out into the smoky night to see burning effigies and exploding tableaux of the year's famous people at the five bonfires around town. They have been practising for weeks. We have had sporadic explosions most nights. The striped guernseys of the Bonfire Boys — worn since 1847 when a Boy in a guernsey was arrested — have been seen about the town. And behind the Elephant and Castle pub there has been much hammering and whistling at the weekends.

At dusk tonight there will be an eerie start to proceedings with the illumination of the Martyrs Memorial on the hill at the far end of the town. The martyrs were burnt at the stake outside the Star Inn between 1555 and 1557 during Mary's reign.

"And Lewes Bonfire has been going ever since Bloody Mary?" Someone says that every year, too. The answer is no. Other towns have martyrs. The memorial wasn't put up until 1901. Like so many "centuries-old English traditions", Lewes Bonfire really got going in Victorian times.

There was the odd year notable for a rowdy November 5 in Lewes in the 18th century. Bonfire came and went. Then, in 1850, the Pope re-opened for business in England, setting up a Roman Catholic hierarchy and creating an Archbishop of Westminster. Then the Bonfire Boys really got going.

The infamous and dangerous Lewes rouser (a huge homemade squib) has been banned, and it's "No offence meant, Father." After all, only one of the five societies which run Bonfire actually burns the Pope. And, after all, it's not this Pope. It's Pope Paul V, who was at the Vatican at the time of the Gunpowder Plot.


The Cliffe society, known as pope-burners

A flaming "No Popery" goes past our dining-room window followed by "Our Cause is Good and Must Prevail". The other 364 days of the year, the middle-class liberals of Lewes would shudder at such intolerance. But tonight they'll be on the streets and behind the bow windows of the high street.

The local Roman Catholic priest, Father Andrew Beer of St Pancras, will not be out on the street cheering tonight. He takes a philosophical view of the immolation of his spiritual leader. "I'd rather they didn't burn the Pope and say blood-curdling prayers, but Lewes is a friendly town with no feeling of anti-Catholicism. There may be a residue of it in Bonfire but I think it's overwhelmingly just a tradition."

In Lewes the gunpowder plots start on November 6 — for the following year. The secret societies are Commercial Square, Cliffe, South Street Juvenile, Waterloo — all named after parts of the town — and Borough, originally called Lewes Town. They'll have my head on a pole for that, but membership tends to run in families and an outsider has as much chance of finding out what the tableau is in advance as lighting a wet Roman candle.

The Pope-burners are Cliffe. A few years back, they burnt Robert Runcie as well because he showed signs of ecumenism. The effigy of the Archbishop of Canterbury carried a book called *The Road to Rome*.

Favourites for the tableaux this year include John Redwood, with rockets zooming out of his Vulcan ears. The Bonfire Boys must surely have been tempted by Hugh Grant in Sunset Boulevard. Sadly, Liz Hurley's will-she-won't-she flirtation with Rome came too late.

"How do they get permission for all this?" The thoughtful sausage-chewer, watching babies being pushed by marching mothers under flaming banners and youngsters carrying torches, always expects a vexed man from the council to come along any minute and send 60,000 people home.

Imagine proposing it today. "We'd like to drop flaming tar barrels in the River Ouse ... march about a bit with torches ... incite a bit of anti-Catholic feeling ... blow up a replica of somebody famous ... We'll prepare for the whole thing by tinkering with explosives in our cellars and sheds. All right with the committee?"

"Heavens." A pause mid-sausage. "Are they carrying severed heads on poles?"

With blood running out of mouth and neck, yes. Council and police objectors find themselves pilloried, or rather beheaded, on the night. The slogan "Enemies of Bonfire" is fixed to the pole.

Every society has its archbishop, who gives a speech — which is more of a rant — condemning Guy Fawkes and anyone else who takes his fancy, on a platform in front of the bonfire.

One veteran archbishop of Commercial Square claims always to have been drunk, and worried only if fireworks landed in his mitre. Now he is retired he still starts drinking every year in September, the beginning, as he explains, of the bonfire season.

Unbelievably, the safety record is good. They wouldn't get away with a night like this if it weren't. Some precautions are taken. The pubs are closed, the shops windows boarded up — not for fear of vandalism, but the pressure of the crowds — and there are safety barriers around the war memorial.

It is the risk — the mad and bad part — which attracts the 60,000. You can feel the tension in the town all day. The undertow is there all year with the meetings, the annual dinners and the tableaux plots.

And tonight it will crash through the surface current of the bland, safety-first, politically correct late-20th century.

Tomorrow morning, there'll be nothing left but the smell of the flames.

JILL PARKIN

● *Lewes town centre will be closed to all cars from late in the afternoon. Ring British Rail for details of extra trains.*

COLLECTIONS


The Lewes "Bonfire Boys and Girls" in their striped guernseys push Guy Fawkes to the stake

Sitting pretty on a raft

Feather Report

THE FIRST thing I saw when I got to the lake was a female reed-bunting feeding vigorously on the purple seed-heads of the phragmites reeds. She was swaying with the tops of the reeds, and was so absorbed that she let me have a good view of the beautiful, finely inked striations on her back, and of her rather unfeminine moustache.

Out beyond the reeds, coots were making pinging cries, and tufted ducks were diving, while a pair of mute swans were quietly preening. When they had finished, each gave a brisk, self-satisfied wag of its pointed white tail.

But the most dramatic birds on the lake were a party of eight cormorants. Seven of them were sitting on a raft, their beaks pointing up in that suspicious way they have, and two of them had spread their wings out to dry.

One had its wings in a W-shape, and was gently flapping the tips of them. The other had them stretched out straight, like the hem of a large black curtain. The eighth bird was swimming very low in the water, and suddenly dived. They chase eels underwater, using their feet as propellors — but this one came up with nothing.

Anglers and fish farmers hate cormorants as much as many countryfolk hate magpies. They can get a licence to shoot them if serious damage to fish stocks is proved. But the RSPB points out that there are only about 7,500 pairs of them in Britain — so I am glad to learn that licences are quite hard to get.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — Watch out for goldeneyes on lakes, reservoirs and inland waterways. Twitchers — Arctic redpoll at Dorman's Pool, Cleveland; juvenile purple heron near Preece, Shropshire; dusky warbler at Sandwich Bay, Kent. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

MARY EVANS


Fish farmers hate cormorants for damaging their fish stocks

PLANET EARTH PICTURES


Hedgehogs like untidy gardens, with leaves to shelter in

How to save a hedgehog on Guy Fawkes Night

It has not been a happy year for hedgehogs. Last winter the mild weather kept rousing them from hibernation and depleting their energy reserves. This summer the hot drought drove earthworms, their main fodder, inaccessibly underground, forcing hedgehogs into unnatural acts, such as raiding hen-houses and giving birth to blond babies, or hoglets, as they are known.

Now, to cap it all, these creatures, vulnerable despite their spines, are up against Guy Fawkes Night. Unknown numbers of hedgehogs die each year after choosing unlit bonfires as winter homes. The solution, however, is not to poke them out with a stick, but to start a fire next to the pile and gradually move it over.

What do you do if you find a hibernating hedgepig, furzepig, or urchin, to use its country names?

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS), founded in 1982, recommends preparing another hibernation site just in case, positioning the leaves and twigs under a bush or shed, or putting them in a purpose-built box. Pick up the hog with some of its nesting materials around it and move it to the second site. For this reason, hedgehogs prefer slightly untidy gardens, with piles of leaves and compost to shelter in.

> Hedgehogs are known to choose unlit bonfires as their winter homes

The society, which has over 10,000 members and a nationwide network of carers prepared to take on sick or injured hogs, issues free leaflets on request and has recently sent out more than 2,000 to vets, who, says the society, often have little or no experience of dealing with these wild animals.

The leaflets available to the public include advice on diet — hogs prefer cat food and grated cheese to bread and milk — and building a hibernation box (also available ready-made for between £8.99 and £26.95 from their mail-order "hogalogue"). A cheap alternative is a sheet of hardboard propped up against a wall. Newspaper forms a good bedding substitute for leaves.

The BHPS also points out that, since hedgehogs eat slugs, they are much more eco-friendly in the garden than pesticides. If you have a pond, lean a ramp into it, so that hedgehogs can climb out if they fall in after drinking. It was the BHPS that persuaded county councils to include escape ramps in their cattle grids. It also lobbied to have the hedgehog protected by law when the RSPCA — which brings the majority of cruelty cases to court — found its prosecutions were hampered by a wildlife protection law. The RSPCA claims it is ambiguous and not comprehensive enough to include hedgehogs.

Dr Pat Morris of London University's zoology department is acknowledged as the country's leading hog expert. He is the author of the definitive layman's manual, *Hedgehogs* (Whittet Books, £7.99), and is researching their ethology. One of the seasonal problems outlined in his book is that of autumn orphans. Late litters can be born right into October, which means that if you find a hog family in your woodpile it may contain hungry hoglets left to forage while their parents go into hibernation.

The Greek writer, Archilochus, said: "The fox knows many things — the hedgehog one big one." Perhaps it is the number of the BHPS Hedgehog Helpline: 01584 890287.

JENNY McCLEAN

● *The British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Knowbury House, Knowbury, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3LQ (01584 890801). Oak hedgehog houses are available from Banana Barn, Street Farm, Stinchcombe, Dursley, Gloucestershire GL11 6AW (call 01453 544276 for catalogue). St Tiggywinkle's, The Wildlife Hospital Trust, Aston Road, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP17 8AF (01844 292292).*

هكذا من الاصل

George Plumptre on the strawberry tree, whose fruit and flowers will brighten a wintry landscape

Sweet looking, but sour tasting

BILL GRAHAM



The strawberry-like — but bitter tasting — fruit of the *Arbetus unedo*, which means "I eat one"

The average small garden has room for only a limited number of ornamental trees — in many cases only one. These need to be chosen with care, and people tend to go for a well-known type — probably a cherry, a magnolia, or an acer, all at their best in spring or early summer. In my garden, however, the unquestioned star of trees is at its best now and will remain striking throughout the winter, thanks to its evergreen foliage.

It is an old plant of *Arbutus unedo*, one of the "strawberry trees". They are all evergreen, dome-shaped small trees or large shrubs, and their combination of strawberry-like fruits, and small pitcher-shaped flowers, add to an invariably handsome habit.

Nearly half of those listed in the current Royal Horticultural Society *Plant Finder* have gained the RHS Award of Garden Merit, a record few plant families can rival. In autumn and early winter, *Arbutus unedo* produces clusters of fruit that ripen from green to red and, at the same time, panicles of small, white flowers.

The Latin name, *unedo*, is an example of the humour of Carl Linnaeus, the 18th-century Swedish botanist. Translated literally, it means "I eat one", because the fruit's similarity to a small strawberry tempts you to do just this — and then discover how unpleasant it tastes. Nonetheless, the fruits are not poisonous, and in Spain they are distilled into a liqueur.

Arbutus unedo's full name is the "Killarney strawberry tree" because it grows wild in southwest Ireland, as well as in many areas around the Mediterranean. Unusually for an ericaceous plant, it does not need acid soil to thrive, and in Killarney it grows on pure limestone.

When choosing a site, the most important considerations are well-drained soil and a sunny, preferably sheltered, position. Young plants can be susceptible to extreme cold and will benefit from some protection (for instance with Netlon) for their first winter or two.

Once established, however, they should be hardy in most gardens. They have proved extremely resistant to strong winds in exposed, coastal positions.

There are two named varieties of *Arbutus unedo* which are especially worth looking for. One is *rubra*, whose flowers are a handsome red colour. It is advisable, however, to see this plant in flower before buying it, as in many instances the flower colour is rather pale.

The other is "Elfin king", perhaps the best candidate for a garden with limited space. It normally grows to between 6ft and 8ft and, as well as having a conspicuously dense habit and superbly dark green leaves, it will produce quantities of both fruit and flower as a young plant, often within the first year of planting.

Arbutus unedo is the most widely grown member of the family, and it is available at a large number of nurseries which offer a decent range of trees and shrubs.

But perhaps more handsome is the rarer hybrid, *Arbutus x andrachnoides*, which originated in Greece and is notable for its wonderful cinnamon-coloured bark. *Arbutus unedo* is one of its parents; the other is *Arbutus andrachne*, which provides the distinctive bark.

Again, it is a plant to investigate before buying to ensure that you take home a specimen with the desired bark colour and texture. Architectural Plants in West Sussex is one of the best suppliers, a nursery whose owner, Angus White, rates the strawberry tree as one of his favourites.

This is the time of year to admire strawberry trees before ordering one. They can be planted now, but waiting until March ensures that you do not risk exposing them to a fierce winter straight after planting.

Some venerable specimens that have achieved heights of well over 20ft in famous gardens such as Kew and Bodnant in North Wales confirm that they have long been prized evergreens, while the National Trust's garden at Dunster Castle in Somerset has a young crop which comprises the NCCPG national collection.

I know of one enthusiast who has grown strawberry trees for more than 30 years, having been captivated as a boy by the fruits and flowers of a large old tree in the grounds of his school.

My tree grows in front of our house, and at this time of year passers-by regularly stop to ask me its identity. Very few have heard the name when I tell them, but they go away encouraged to buy one and to improve their own gardens with one of our most satisfying ornamental evergreens.

● RHS Plant Finder *(£12.99, RHS) is available from all good bookshops. Architectural Plants, Cooks Farm, Nuthurst, West Sussex (01403 891772). Dunster Castle (01643 821398) near Minehead, Somerset. The garden is open daily from February to end October, and by appointment from November to February.*

WEEKEND TIPS

● Begonia sutherlandii *in pots should be allowed to die down naturally under glass. Save the bulblets from the stem joints to produce extra plants next year.*

● *Remove leaves from lawns, and stack where they can rot down. To speed the progress to leaf mould, use Biotal Compost Maker. Alternatively, spread the leaves under shrubberies, where they cannot blow around in the wind.*

● *If eel worm is a problem, lift tubers of Jerusalem artichokes and store in a dry, dark place.*

S.A.

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q We have a large clump of bamboo which must be decades old. It is in chalky soil and produces spindly canes. This year its foliage turned brown before the heatwave and, although it appears to be alive, it looks rather sad. Does it need pruning or thinning, and if so, how? — John W. Dixon, Andover, Hants.

A Bet you a fiver that this is that excellent bamboo, *Fargesia murieliae*, which has been flowering this year. Bamboos have the odd habit of deciding that this is the year to flower, no matter whose garden they are in. Flowering is an exhausting process for bamboos. The strongest survive, as well as those clumps that were too young and un-established to flower. A flowered clump needs to have the flowered canes — which will be the majority — cut out at ground level. You can see the little bunches of brown flowers hanging at the upper-leaf joints. Give it an almighty feed and mulch in the spring, and make sure it does not lack water, then keep your fingers crossed.

Q I planted a Japanese honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, against a wall in my small back garden in 1973, and for ten years it flourished. Then it started having more and more yellow leaves throughout the summer. I have fed it and watered heavily, but to no avail. It produces plenty of new growth and still looks vital. What do you recommend? — Mr H. Hottot, Oxford.

A Honeysuckles are prone to aphids and mildew, the latter especially in hot years. Aphid attack often causes the older leaves to fall prematurely. Mildew, if not too severe, attacks older leaves while the young remain healthy. Spray now and early next year for mildew, and clear up dead leaves this winter. In a small, enclosed garden lack of ventilation may be encouraging mildew, especially on an old plant. Would you be prepared to cut it down, removing all that old dead wood, and regrow it?

CONCERNING my advice on burning off pampas grass in February before digging it out, Ms Valerie Collins points out that hedgehogs often hibernate in the dead leaves at the base of this plant. She is right. If you have to disturb such a site, check for hedgehogs first and find or make them an alternative home. More information is available from St Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP17 8AF (01844 292292).

Save a hedgehog, page 4

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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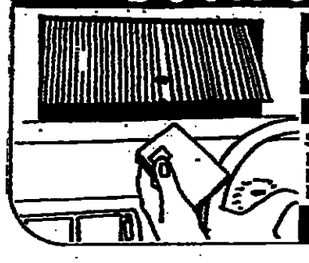
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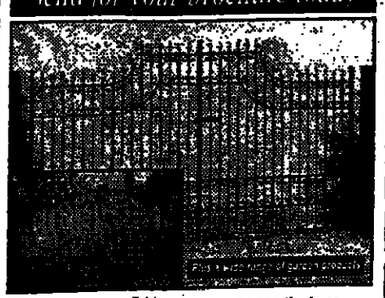
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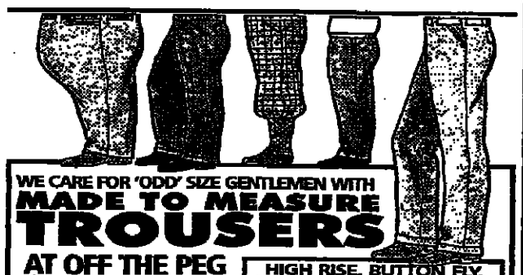
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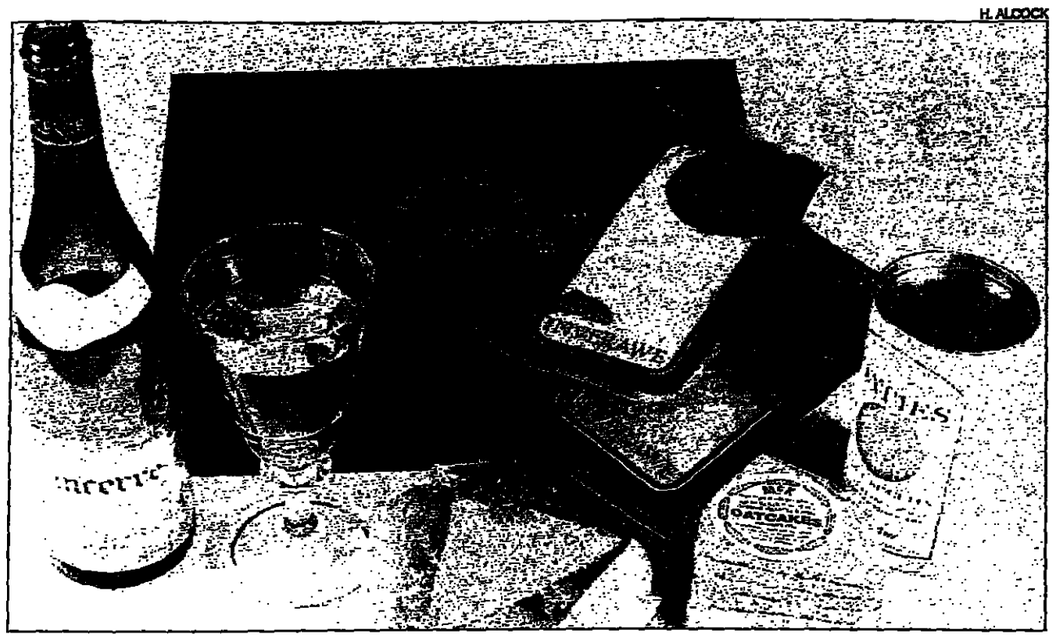
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CHANGEWEAR

SHOPAROUND ALSO APPEARS ON PAGES 6 & 12

Immaculate taste for the Christmas table

Traditional food, prepared with care: order by post to feast on the best


H. ALCOCK

I feel like sending something different for Christmas this year? How about food? I'm not keen on hampers in general, having received disappointing versions over the years — I still have at least one jar of kumquats in ginger lurking at the back of my store cupboard.

Hampers have become more sophisticated, but I have mostly avoided them while investigating foods by post that will be a real treat in the coming season of self-indulgence, and good value.

Some measures that follow are metric, others imperial, in line with the way in which items are sold.

The Fine Cheese Company is the ideal source for lovers of British cheeses. Its *Potted Edible History of British Cheeses* (£26.95) is beautifully presented in a burgundy hatbox with gold script. The box includes a history of the cheeses. The company also does a port and stilton (£19.95), which comes in a corrugated card bucket-shaped box tied with scarlet ribbon. Either would be welcomed by the cheese lover in your life.

For Scottish cheeses, try the Small Cheese Presentation Box from Letterfinlay's Larder (£20, inc. P&P), with seven excellent cheeses, of which I particularly recommend the rich and unusual Lochaber smoked cream cheese.

Venison is increasingly popular and freezes well. Fletcher's Fine Foods specialises in home-reared, traditionally hung venison and an extensive range of cuts is available, with full cooking instructions. My family tried the marinated casserole (£4.15 a lb), and haunch steaks (£6.25 a lb) which, under Fletcher's instruction, melted in the mouth. Try also the superb venison carpaccio (4oz for £3.25) and venison supper pies (£1 each), perfect for festive buffets and snacking. Serve the home-made wild rowan jelly (8oz jar for £1.90) with cold meats and pretend you made it yourself.

Cold cuts and smoked meats are a welcome antidote to unimaginative dishes involving leftover turkey. The most innovative smoked foods we tried came from the Tombuie Smokehouse, whose oak smoked lamb (whole leg on the bone, £8.36 a kg) has won three top national food awards this year. Tombuie also offers smoked guinea fowl (£6.50 each), smoked jambon (115g pack £4.60) and much more, including smoked duck and smoked truckle cheese.

We tried Suffolk honey-roasted ham (whole on the bone 11½lb for £44.95) from the Teesdale Trencherman, which tasted like the very best home-cooked ham. You could serve it for Boxing Day lunch, with mustard fruit chutney (500g for £4.95) salad, and dishes of Teesdale's charcoal roasted peppers, aubergines and artichoke hearts in extra virgin olive oil (290g jars for £4.95 and £5.95).

For a real treat, indulge in Teesdale's freshly cooked duck foie gras (500g for £37.50). Follow with ice cream and griottines (1kg jar for £19.95), pitted French morello cherries in kirsch, and you have a glorious meal in minutes.

Alternatively, order a pudding with light almond curd on jam filling and delicious pastry that melts in the mouth from The Old Original Bakewell Pudding shop. At £4.95 each including P&P, they are a bargain and will serve four greedy or six restrained people.

Christmas is one of the few times when my family succumbs to the the Proper Breakfast. Tombuie's smoked bacon (200g to 340g pack for £7.54) is the best I have tasted.

For superior sausages, get Fletcher's venison and wild boar sausages (£2.95lb), and black pudding from Macsween of Edinburgh, or choose its mini black puddings (pack of six for £2.75). And no home that celebrates Hogmanay should be without Macsween mini haggises (pack of six for £2.75) to serve as canapés.


Top: delights from Inverawe Smokehouse. Above: Laroch's smoked ham, left, olives from Olives Et Al, and Fortnum & Mason plums with fruit and nuts

If you want to go the whole Edwardian hog, get kippers from Laroch Foods (vacuum-packed in pairs and priced from 2lb for £10.75), whose delicate natural flavour took me back to childhood holidays on Deeside.

Smoked fish makes an excellent present and Laroch Foods has a fine selection: smoked salmon (½lb for £9.50) and smoked trout (½lb for £8.50), as well as Laroch's smoked scottish ham (½lb for £8) are delicious. They are perfect as snacks with pre-prandial drinks.

Olives are ideal as nibbles, and Olives et Al make some of the best. The supplier's tapas olives taste like the genuine Spanish article, and a Persian friend loved the Moroccan and Greek marinades (500g clamp-top jars for £6.95 each). The olives, plump and prettily presented, make great presents. You can also get oils and vinegars, delicious tapenade and even special olive dishes.

Everything I have mentioned is handsomely presented. But gift packing is also available from most companies — send an expatriate Scot a glamorously boxed haggis from Macsween (1lb for £5.50) for instance — and several do taster selections.

Our favourite of the latter was called the Taste of the Smokery from the Inverawe Smokehouse: 4oz sliced packs of Scottish smoked salmon, smoked Loch Etive trout, halibut, gravadlax and Argyll ham with 4oz spicey smoked trout mousse, 50g smoked cod's roe relish and 4oz smoked salmon pâté: excellent value at £25.75.

Inverawe also has a range of Christmas boxes, such as the Great Inverawe Christmas Box (£99.50, inc. P&P), packed with enough delights to keep a family going for a while, and including delicious gravadlax (227g) and dill sauce (198g jar), a 680g sliced side of Scottish smoked salmon, smoked island cheddar cheese (454g) and two 227g packs of traditional kiln-smoked salmon trout.

Chocaholics will enjoy Harrods' Confectionery Box — more than 1.5kg of indulgence in an elegant hatbox for a reasonable £49, including champagne truffles (227g), chocolate-covered fruits and nuts (200g) and gold and silver-coloured chocolate dragées (175g). Or, for the sweet-toothed, you could send Fortnum & Mason's sun-dried Elvas plums from Portugal (400g box for £13.95).

The healthy will appreciate a Fortnum's fruit and nut platter (700g £20) or the store's box of Brogdale Horticultural Trust apples (minimum 8lb for £12), which contains rare varieties such as Egremont Russets and Blenheims.

Also from Fortnum's comes the only hamper which we allowed house room: the Children's Christmas Treat (£17.50), a miniature hamper basket packed with goodies, among them two gingerbread men, two chocolate teddies, a tin of toffees, and a book and felt tree decoration in the shape of an elephant. The hamper is ideal for any foodie in training — and excellent value.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

Seasonal food by mail order

☐ If you want some of the delicacies mentioned on this page, place your Christmas order as soon as possible to ensure availability. The prices quoted in the main article are exclusive of P&P, unless otherwise stated.

☐ The Fine Cheese Co, 29 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BN, and 5 Regent Street, Cheltenham GL50 1HE (phone-fax 01225 483407 or 01242 255022).

☐ Fletcher's Fine Foods, Reediehill, Auchtermuchty, Fife KY14 7HS (01337 828369, fax 01337 827001).

☐ Fortnum & Mason, Piccadilly, London W1A 1ER (0171-734 8040).

☐ Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-730 1234).

☐ Inverawe Smokehouse, Taynuilt, Argyll PA35 1HU (01866 822446, fax 01866 822274).


Cheeses from Letterfinlay

☐ Laroch Foods, Kilmelford, Oban, Argyll PA34 4XA (01852 200288, fax 01852 200337).

☐ Letterfinlay's Larder, The Boat House, Letterfinlay, Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire PH34 4DZ (01397 712626, fax 01397 712510).

☐ Macsween, 130 Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh EH10 4ES (0131-229 1216, fax 0131-229 9102).

☐ The Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop, The Square, Bakewell DE4 1BT (01629 812193).

☐ Olives et Al, The Store, 4 Castle Lane, Wilton, Salisbury SP2 0HG (phone-fax 01722 744559).

☐ The Teesdale Trencherman, Startforth Hall, Barnard Castle, Co Durham DL12 9RA (phone-fax 01833 638370).

☐ Tombuie Smokehouse, Aberfeldy PH15 2JS (01887 820127, fax 01887 829625).

SHOPAROUND

SHOPAROUND ALSO APPEARS ON PAGES 5 & 12

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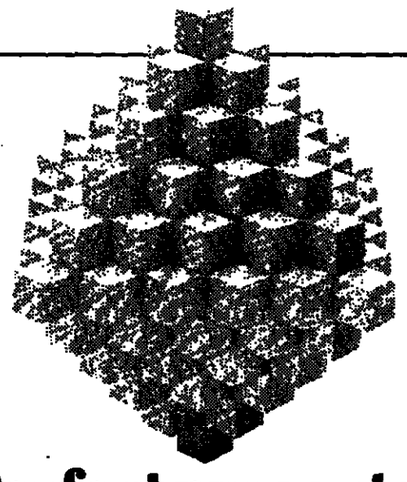
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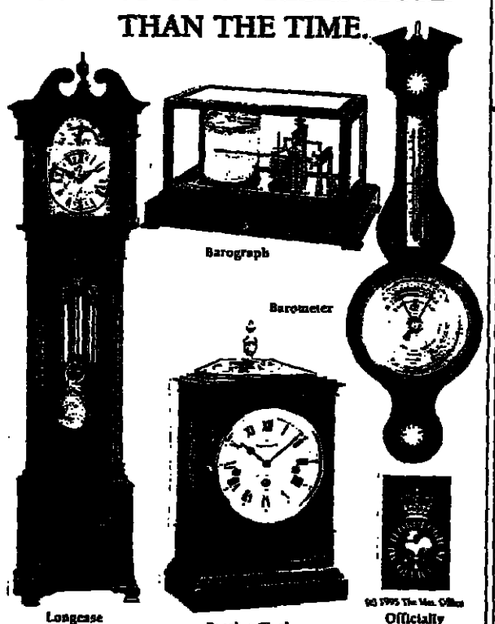
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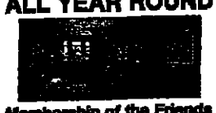
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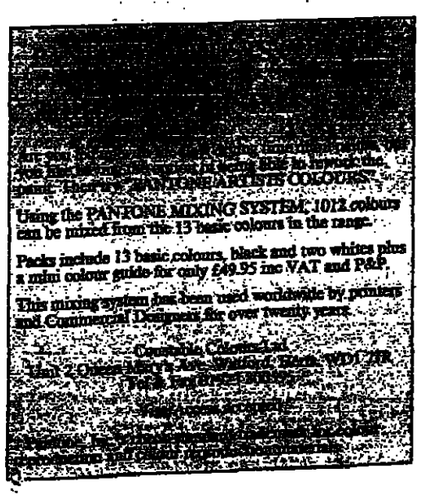
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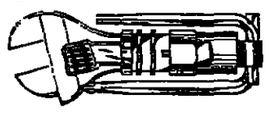
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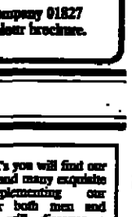
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POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ **QUEEN**
Made In Heaven
Parlophone 8 36088★★
FRANKLY, the impending battle of the bands with dead singers is not an alluring prospect. But while the regrouped Beatles have, by all accounts, been forced to work with some pretty scant contributions from the late John Lennon, the remaining members of Queen were bequeathed a generous album's worth of surprisingly full-blooded performances by Freddie Mercury.

Mercury wrote and recorded his parts in the 16 months between the end of the *Innuendo* sessions in the summer of 1990 and his death in October 1991. Although cruelly aware of the limited time left, he threw himself into these performances with typical zest.

Certainly, there is no dis-



Mercury: zest and power

cernible loss of range or power in his voice on the exuberant *I Was Born To Love You* or the soaring, pseudo-gospel chant of *Let Me Live*.

Nor are there any obviously half-baked, or patched-up numbers. Two of the songs have been recorded before, including *Heaven For Everyone*, which cropped up on an album by drummer Roger Taylor's band, The Cross, and the ghastly *Too Much Love Will Kill You*, a solo hit for guitarist Brian May in 1992. Most, however, are as good as anything that Queen came up with in their later years. How good that is, as always with Queen, is largely a matter of taste.

Mother Love, the last recording that Mercury made, is a song of truly heartfelt pathos: "I can't take it if you see me cry/I long for peace before I die."

Despite its overdue delivery, *Made In Heaven* stands up remarkably well as the closing chapter in a spectacular pop odyssey.

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ **60FT DOLLS**
Pig Valentine
Indolent DOLLS001★★
A GUITAR-SLINGING trio convened two years ago in Newport, Gwent, 60ft Dolls take the sound of the early Jam and Clash as their template for *Pig Valentine*. Tom-toms are whipped, riffs are clipped and singer Richard Parfitt affects a desperado air: "The devil on my shoulder buys me drinks, so I don't care/The angel slipped, he lost his grip, I am headed straight for you-know-where."

It's a sound and mood which fits in alongside this year's rash of exciting new bands. But like so many of their peers (Marion, Lick, Menswear, the Bluetones, Ash), 60ft Dolls have still to prove themselves much more than the sum of some fairly obvious influences.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ **VARIOUS ARTISTS**
A Great Day in Harlem
Columbia 481399-2★★★
IF JEAN BACH'S affectionate Oscar-nominated jazz documentary, *A Great Day in Harlem*, had one drawback it was that its slender running time reduced most of the music to little more than soundbites. That deficiency is amply rectified in this no less genial exercise in time-travel.

The day in question, for those who have not yet seen the film, was the morning in 1958 when a young *Esquire* photographer, Art Kane, corralled nearly 60 leading musicians of the era for a group portrait on the steps of a Harlem brownstone.

The wide-angle shot that resulted, after some jockeying for position, stands as an evocative document of an occasion when swing masters from Buck Clayton to Lester Young rubbed shoulders with the new generation represented by Horace Silver, Gerry Mulligan and Charles Mingus.

Musically, the compilation proves much more than an excuse to round up the usual suspects. Mingus's elegiac *Goodbye Pork Pie Hat* may be familiar enough, but the remainder throw up unexpected treasures — Rex Stewart and other Ellingtonians performing *Back Room Romp*, Horace Silver creating a leisurely, after-hours mood on *Silver's Blue*, Thelonious Monk indulging in an unaccompanied *Ruby, My Dear*. Milt Hinton (whose home movie footage added immeasurably to Bach's film) brings the collection into the 1990s with *Prelude To A Kiss*, which contains one of Hal Ashby's velvet homages to Ben Webster.

■ **VARIOUS ARTISTS**
(I Got No Kick Against)
Modern Jazz
GRP 98322★
THE idea looks promising: gather a roster of contemporary musicians and set them loose on The Beatles. The execution, at times, falls into that no man's land where mellow jazz shades into Muzak: Tom Scott enters the Kenny G stakes on *The Fool On The Hill*, while Lee Ritenour delivers the most anti-climactic *A Day in the Life* known to man. All is forgiven when singer-pianist Diana Krall — certain to become a star of the Nineties — gives *And I Love Her* the slow-motion treatment associated with Shirley Horn.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ **SCHUMANN**
Chamber music
Argerich and friends
EMI 5 55484 2★★★
LIVE music-making on record may seem like a contradiction, but it does not come much more live than this. Inspired by her discoveries at Salvatore Accardo's annual chamber-music weeks in Naples, Martha Argerich decided to make a live, all-Schumann recording with her friends. She



Martha Argerich: inspired

blazed a typically fiery trail of concerts, ending up in Nijmegen, where musicians and repertoire gathered to make this two-disc compilation.

The Piano Quintet is bright with that joy of first discovery. In the high-stepping Allegro brillante, Argerich's decisive initiatives at the piano command excited listening and often unpredictable responses from her colleagues, Dora Schwarzberg, Lucy Hall, Nobuko Imai and Mischa Maisky. The slow movement positively quivers.

Cellist Natalia Gutman joins Argerich in a whimsical partnership for the *Fantasiestücke*, while it is Imai's viola which etches in the strange lights and shades of the fairy-tale pictures of *Märchenbilder*. The comparatively rare Adagio and Allegro sings out Schumann's joy in the new valve horn: Marie-Luise Neunecker and Alexandre Rabinovitch (piano) create a virtuoso diptych.

Finally Schwarzberg and Argerich join for the Violin Sonata No 2 in D minor, turbulent and tentative by turns, and summoning up the shades of its original performers, Clara Schumann and Joseph Joachim.

□ **FIBICH**
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DOHNANYI
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Endymion Ensemble
ASV CD DCA 943★★
THE Fibich Quintet is one of the great underplayed chamber works of all time. The last years of Zdenko Fibich, a young Czech contemporary of Smetana, were warmed by a late-flowering love: the piano "diary" he wrote for his beloved pupil Anežka Schulzová contains many a fond melodic and motivic idea which was to trigger the Quintet.

The Endymion Ensemble lightly turns its rapturous opening melody and enjoys the instrumentation of clarinet, horn, violin, cello and piano. A limpid piano introduces the water-nymph of a slow movement, while the string players bring keen observation to the boisterous polka of a Scherzo. The Fibich is coupled with an irresistible performance of Dohnányi's 1935 Sextet.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **VERDI**
Rigoletto
Rost/Alagna/Bruson/La Scala Orchestra/Muti
Sony S2K 66314 (2 CDs)★★
RICCARDO MUTI'S first go at *Rigoletto* on record, for EMI back in 1988, turned out to be one of his least satisfactory sets. The principle was fine — of having two young singers as the Duca and Gilda (La Scola and Dessì) paired with a highly experienced baritone (Zancanaro) in the title role. But the outcome was drab. Neither tenor nor soprano set the sparks flying in the



Roberto Alagna: great vigour as the Duca

palaces and brothels of Mantua.

Muti uses exactly the same formula this time round on Sony and stays with the forces of his home theatre, La Scala. The results are far better. Roberto Alagna as the Duca may not have the polish of Alfredo Kraus (RCA), the supreme exponent of the role in our day, but he has tremendous vocal vigour. At the start, Muti keeps him in a rush, hungry for the next sexual conquest. He zips through *Questa o quella* and dashes into Gilda's lodging for a quick duet. But conductor and tenor are careful to make *Parmi veder* both a reflective piece and the high point of the opera, which is just as it should be if the right man is there to sing it. Certainly it brings out the best in Alagna, as does the following *cabaletta*, which is closed with a flourish heroic enough to suggest he may be a Manrico before the decade is out.

Andrea Most provides some notable limpid singing in *Caro nome* and sounds young enough to be a credible object of the Duca's attentions. She moves away from the frail little flower that has recently been the Gilda fashion to offer a gutsier girl. This fits in well with Alagna's swashbuckling approach.

Renato Bruson has already recorded the title role under Sinopoli (Philips) in one of the best of the competing sets. The voice sounds dustier than it once was, especially at the top. But there is no doubting the passion he puts into the part, or the supporting sympathy that Muti gives him from the orchestra. Whether Rigoletto is roaming the dark back-alleys of Mantua or pouring out his spleen against the court, Muti makes it clear that his heart is with the older generation.

The supporting cast is generally adequate: Dimitri Kavrakos a scowling Sparafucile, Mariana Pentcheva a too anonymous Maddalena. The live recording from La Scala has its drawbacks, with a generally dry sound and some of the singing appearing to take place out in the wings.

The volume needs to be turned up, otherwise the repeats of *La donna è mobile* will be blown away like a feather in the wind, as the Duca's favourite song goes.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ **SCHMIDT**
Symphony No 4: Variations on a Hussar's Song
London Philharmonic/ Welser-Möst
EMI CDC 5 55518 2★★★
THE late-Romantic composer Franz Schmidt (1874-1939) has always been more celebrated in his native Austria than abroad, but over the years international audiences have become increasingly aware of the strengths and beauties of his music.



Welser-Möst: affection

Quite a number of his works have now found their way onto disc, and this latest offering from Schmidt's fellow-countryman Franz Welser-Möst provides us with alternative versions of two of the finest orchestral works: the Symphony No 4 and the *Variations on a Hussar's Song*.

Bruckner and Reger are often mentioned as two of the formative influences on Schmidt, though neither is a direct model for the very individual mode of endless development essayed by Schmidt. The first movement, for example, evolves from a theme given out on a solo trumpet (Paul Beniston), while the Adagio is also launched with a melody on a solo instrument (in this case, a warm, lyrical cello, played by Robert Truman).

The trumpet scene returns in the final two movements, generating further development of the primary material. But there is also plenty of room for lyrical expression and for revelling in Romantic harmonies. The silky strings and well blended brass of the London Philharmonic do this attractive work full justice and Welser-Möst conducts with evident affection.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

NEW ON VIDEO: Nymphomaniac nuns, animal magic, gleaming uniforms … and, of course, Julie Andrews

Like father, like daughter



Sophie Marceau plays D'Artagnan's daughter in Bertrand Tavernier's high-spirited costume romp, crammed with implausible plot turns and vigorous swordplay

■ **D'ARTAGNAN'S DAUGHTER**
Artificial Eye, PG, 1994
BERTRAND TAVERNIER tries his hand at a costume romp crammed with implausible plot turns, vigorous swordplay and a heroine in trousers. Sophie Marceau portrays the musketeer's daughter with charm and spunk, though her spotlight dims once Philippe Noiret appears as the ageing dad who rounds up Dumas's old team to rout a conspiracy threatening the throne. Like the musketeers, the film sags in the middle, but its pleasant high spirits carry the day.

■ **AMATEUR**
Artificial Eye, 15, 1994
HAL HARTLEY'S uniquely cock-eyed romantic thriller about a nymphomaniac nun (Isabelle Huppert), an amnesiac pornographer (Martin Donovan), and some incriminating floppy disks. The cult writer-director persists with his cryptic visual style and circular dialogue, but the plot gives the film more momentum than usual and by the end you even care for the fate of the main characters: two lost souls, amateurs at living, trapped in a muddle of desires, ambition and self-doubt.

■ **THE FOX AND THE HOUND**
Disney, U, 1981
MANY Disney cartoon features, past and present, fritter away their energies in episodic stories, but this has a strong dramatic pull. The plot concerns a fox and hound who play together as pups, only to discover that nature intended them to be enemies. The colours come from the old Disney paintbox: rural backgrounds are cosily romantic, and cute bundles of fun are everywhere. The film may seem sedate next to *Aladdin* but it works, especially for younger children.

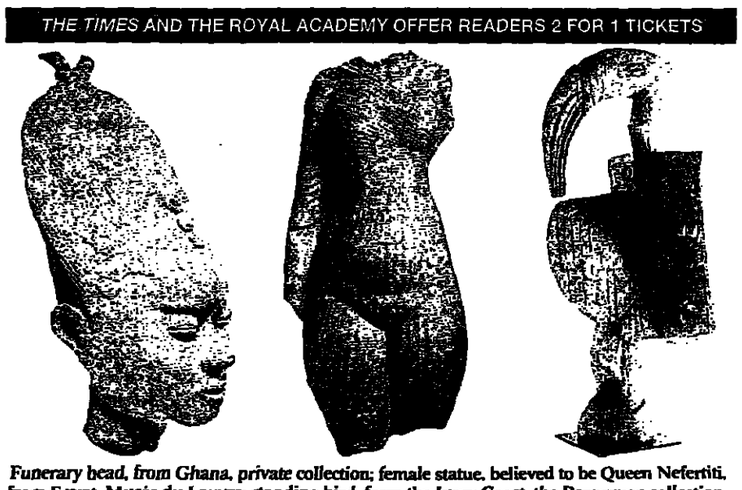
■ **MIGHTY MORPHIN POWER RANGERS: THE MOVIE**
FoxVideo, PG, 1995
MORE a feature-length advert for Power Rangers toys than a movie proper. Time and again the camera fetishises the gleaming uniforms worn by the six teenage stars whenever they "morph" into superheroes and zoom between planets. The evil they battle is spread by Ivan Ooze, a shape-changing ogre who spouts sarcastic one-liners, the probable result of spending the past 600 years inside a purple egg. A popcorn feast for the younger crowd.

■ **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**
FoxVideo, U, 1965
BANG in the middle of the swinging 1960s, out popped this marzipan musical, full of simple tunes, seven children, nuns, picturesque Austrian scenery and Julie Andrews's perfect diction. The technical finesse of director Robert Wise keeps the worst excesses of sentiment at bay, but it still helps to have a sweet tooth. For its thirtieth anniversary, the film is being issued in both full-screen and wide-screen formats, with the trailer and a short film about Salzburg thrown in. Real addicts, however, will want the collectors' box, which adds an 80-minute documentary and a book by screenwriter Ernest Lehman.

■ **THE STRANGER**
Second Sight, 1946, PG
FOR his third completed feature, Orson Welles was tethered to fairly conventional material, but still produced a powerful film: a disquieting portrait of Nazi evil lurking inside a New England community. Welles plays an escaped war criminal about to marry unsuspecting Loretta Young; Edward G. Robinson is the federal agent on his trail. Controlled performances overall; plus a marvellous, over-the-top finale in a church tower.

GEOFF BROWN

THE TIMES AND THE ROYAL ACADEMY OFFER READERS 2 FOR 1 TICKETS



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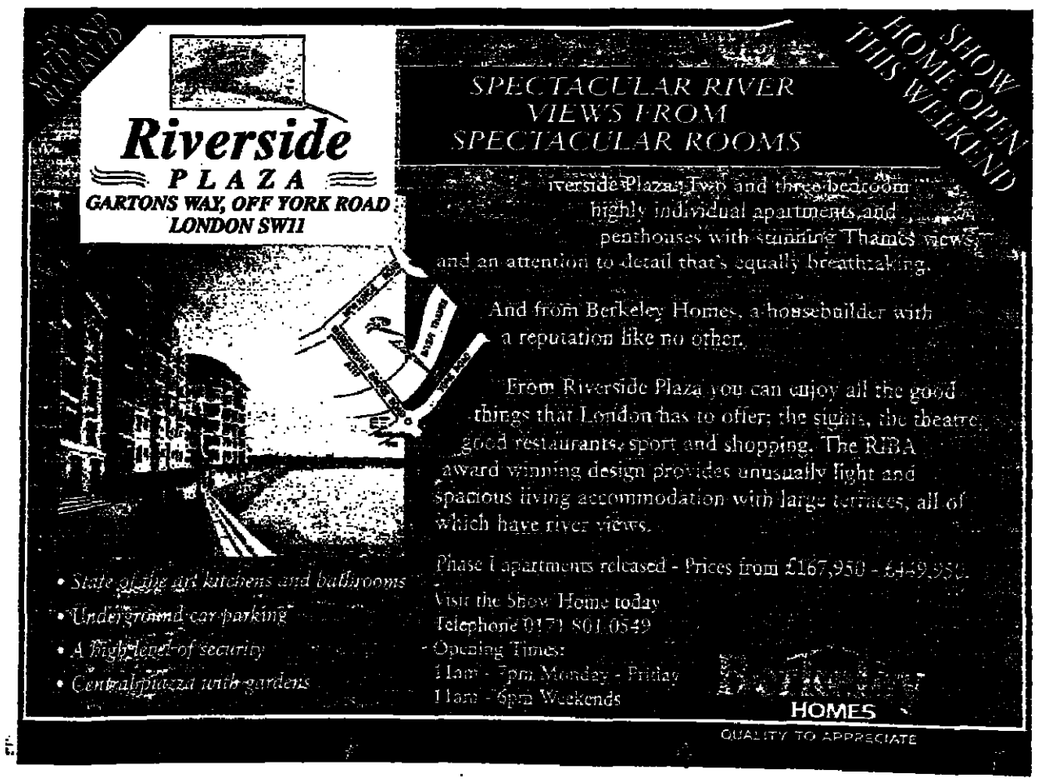
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A second home near a Swiss or French alpine resort can help to pay for itself through winter lettings

Ski from your own doorstep



The four-bedroom Chalet Barbizou, on a hillside near Villars, Switzerland, is for sale at £750,000

"I am sitting at the desk in my study in the Chalet," wrote Alan Clark in his *Diaries*, "and the French windows are open on to the balcony. Fifty feet away the Wiesti foams and tumbles past, swollen by the melting glaciers. The Matterhorn is in full view, and the whole house carries that delicious aroma of high summer, pine needles and sweet geranium."

The former Defence Minister made many fond references to his bolthole at Zermatt, Switzerland, often when he was entrenched in Whitehall meetings.

Owning an Alpine retreat such as Clark's Chalet Caroline is an attractive prospect. The benefits are many: expensive skiing holidays need never be booked again and the chalet can be rented out to earn a yearly return of about 5 per cent of the outlay. The income from three weeks' rental at peak season, say in February, can pay for a year's running costs. Another advantage is that, since last April, the Inland Revenue has allowed taxpayers to offset interest charges to buy or improve foreign holiday homes against their rental income.

Payment of any foreign taxes on rental income is complicated and, though you should be able to pay your tax in Britain, a specialist should be consulted.

As with buying any sort of property, the main issue is location. For chalets, this boils down to France or Switzerland. Naturally, it seems best to choose a property in your favoured resort, but certain factors may prevail against this. Swiss legislation prevents foreigners from buying in German-speaking areas, such as St Moritz and Klosters. Even in French-speaking resorts, such as Zermatt, one can only buy properties with a maximum of 100 square metres of habitable space.

In France, there are fewer restrictions, but the sterling/franc exchange rate makes buying French property less attractive.

Zigi Davenport, who runs the Hertfordshire-based Alpine Apartments Agency, which specialises in French properties, says that a chalet she sold last year for Fr1.3 million (£175,000) would go on sale now for around Fr1.7 million.

French communes are becoming much stricter in enforcing height, size and style restrictions on new chalets. Coupled with the limited amount of land available, this means that existing chalets are getting more expensive. Nevertheless, there is still a huge demand. "I know of many who are waiting to pounce when the French franc weakens," Ms Davenport says.

Chalet prices can vary enormously. In an unfashionable and poorly equipped French-speaking Swiss resort, a two to three-bedroom freehold chalet can be bought for as little as £125,000 to £150,000. But such resorts are well off the beaten pistes, and if you are serious enough about skiing to buy a chalet there seems little point in committing yourself to an area where none of your friends would wish to join you. There is the added disadvantage that a chalet in such a resort is hardly going to earn a fat rental income.

The price of chalets in popular Swiss resorts, such as Villars, are typical. SwFr1.5 million (£750,000) will buy the grand, ten-year-old Chalet Barbizou, which has four bedrooms, a cellar, games room, three reception rooms and two bathrooms. The chalet is near enough to the town to be able to walk to the shops and restaurants, and is high enough to enjoy spectacular views. The five-year-old Chalet Les Papillons, which is being sold by its English owner for SwFr625,000 (£312,500) is near Villars and has three bedrooms, good views, and the facility of being able to ski from the front door to the nearest telecabine. Both chalets are being sold by Simon Malster, an independent property consultant.

Chalets in French resorts within an hour of Geneva are the most popular, Ms Davenport says, but adds: "Many people are disappointed by the lack of choice around the £250,000 mark." In Val d'Isère, there are two new, deluxe five-bedroom chalets for sale at Fr5,650,000 (£700,000) and Fr6 million (£750,000), though these are so plush that they include saunas and ski-boot warmers. A four-bedroom, four-bathroom chalet (a renovated 300-year-old farmhouse) has just been sold for Fr2.25 million (£300,000). In Méribel, a 600 square metre, 12-year-old chalet with nine bedrooms is for sale at Fr17 million (£2.1 million), but a more typical price for four bedrooms is Fr4 million (£500,000).

Those who spend a large amount of money on chalets are not those who wish to rent them out. Nevertheless, many ski companies are hungry to find decent properties, and are willing to pay good sums for a full season's rental. A £310,000 four-bedroom chalet in Val d'Isère is being rented by a tour company for £23,000 from mid-December to mid-April. This represents a return of 7.5 per cent.

If the idea of giving up your chalet for an entire season does not appeal, there is the option of renting it out to individuals for shorter periods, though management companies can charge as much as 25 per cent of the rental income. While the owners are away, the chalets can also be maintained by management companies, who will cut the grass in summer, shovel snow from paths, mend gutters, and generally attend to the place. Some companies will deliver your car to the airport on your arrival.

"If the owners are staying only for the weekend," Mr Malster says, "they want to have as much free time as possible. They don't want to waste it by carrying out menial chores." Perhaps Alan Clark has such a splendid arrangement.

GUY WALTERS

● *Zigi Davenport, Alpine Apartments Agency, 01544 388234. Simon Malster, 0171-499 0321.*

Skiing in Norway, page 21

FOR SALE

ALPINE CHALETS



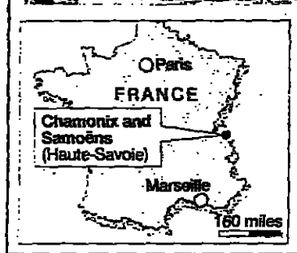
FRANCE: Chalet C, Domaine des Bartules, Chamonix, Haute-Savoie. Large, newly built, architect-designed chalet in the Chamonix Valley, near the Grands Montets ski area, about 90 minutes' drive from Geneva airport. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, sitting room with stone fireplace, fitted oak-and-cedar kitchen. Garden. About £634,620 (Alpine Apartments Agency, 01544 388234)

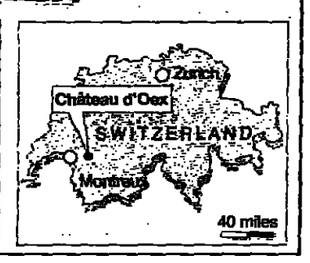


FRANCE: Alpine Lodge, Samoëns, Haute-Savoie. Recently refurbished chalet, with superb views in a hectare of gardens bordered by a stream. Close to the ski slopes, about a mile from the village of Samoëns and an hour from Geneva. Seven bedrooms, two bathrooms, sitting room with fireplace, dining room and kitchen. Ground floor area suitable for conversion to a self-contained apartment. About £211,538 (Alpine Apartments Agency, 01544 388234)



SWITZERLAND: Chalet Floralies, Château d'Oex, near Gstaad. Large, balconied first-floor apartment in a south-facing chalet, in a quiet location 20 minutes' drive from Gstaad, and 1F hours from Geneva airport. Three bedrooms (one with en suite bath), shower room, living room with open fireplace, and fully equipped kitchen. About £295,000 (Simon Malster 0171-499 0321)





WESTOVER ROAD, SW18

A beautifully presented Victorian end-of-terrace house in a prestigious residential road off the west side of Wandsworth Common. 5 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, kitchen, cellar. 24m (80ft) south east facing garden.

Freehold £380,000

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HAMPSHIRE Sway

A pretty listed 17th century farmhouse about a mile from the open forest. 3/4 beds, 2 baths, 2/3 receps, kitchen, b'fast rm. Double garage, stable block, garden & orchard. About 0.16 hectare (0.4 acre).

JSA: Salter Wilde & Co. 01590 622602

Price Guide: £225,000

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

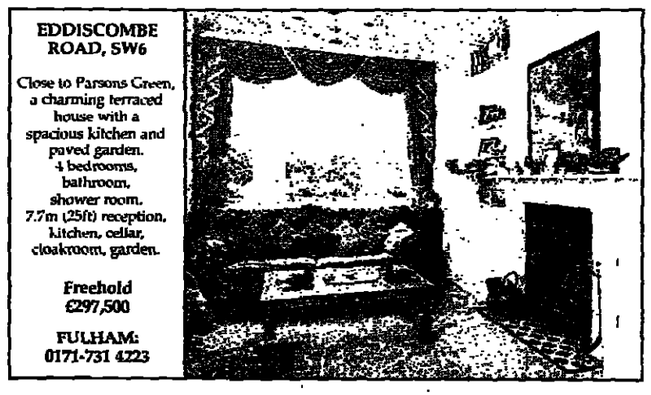
BERKSHIRE Ascot

An attractive house with lovely grounds in a prime residential area. 6 beds, 4 baths, 4 receps. Garaging with annexe over. farm/stable buildings, formal gdns, kitchen gdn, walled gdn, swimming pool, pavilion, paddocks. About 6.88 hectares (17 acres).

Price Guide: £900,000

HEAD OFFICE: 0171-493 4106





EDDISCOMBE ROAD, SW6

Close to Parsons Green, a charming terraced house with a spacious kitchen and paved garden. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room. 7.7m (25ft) reception, kitchen, cellar, cloakroom, garden.

Freehold £297,500

FULHAM: 0171-731 4223



HAMPSHIRE Curdridge

Situated in a gardener's paradise adjoining open countryside, a mellow late 1930's detached bungalow, refurbished and beautifully presented. 2 beds, bath, sitting rm, clkrm, kit/dining rm, garage, established garden of 0.26 hectare (0.65 acre).

Price Guide: £165,000

WINCHESTER: 01962 863131



ANHALT ROAD, SW11

In a prestigious road close to Albert Bridge and Battersea Park, a Victorian house recently renovated and enlarged to create a delightful house. 4 beds, 2 baths, shower rm, 3 receps, kit, west facing 15.3m (50ft) garden.

Freehold £395,000

BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174



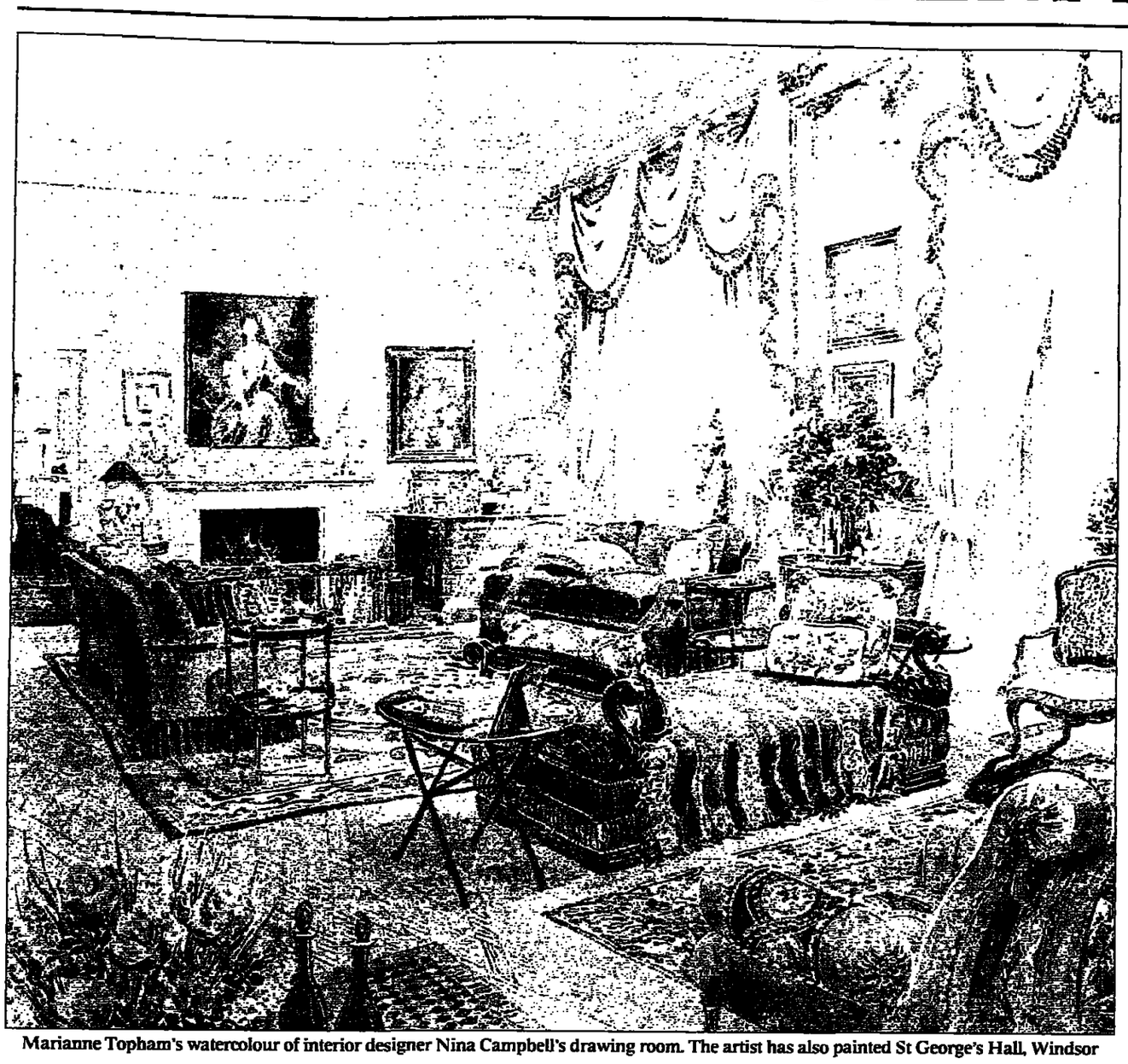
OXFORDSHIRE Stratton Audley

A delightful residential farm house in a rural setting. 4 beds, dressing rm, 2 baths, shower rm, 3 receps, kitchen, utility room, clkrm, 3 car garage, stable block, gardens, grounds and paddocks. Just over 2.53 hectares (6.25 acres).

Price Guide: £365,000

OXFORD: 01865 311522

هكذا من الاصل



Marianne Topham's watercolour of interior designer Nina Campbell's drawing room. The artist has also painted St George's Hall, Windsor

The pictures that prove home is where the art is

The artists with brush or camera who can portray your home as the subject for a lasting memory

If, as they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, why not commission a portrait of your house? Some people who do this are discovering a bonus: when they come to sell their house the painting or photograph can be used in the estate agent's brochure, as well as being a lasting reminder of their old home.

Many artists are pleased to have such a commission, provided they are given enough freedom of interpretation.

Finding an artist who you feel would do justice to your house may be a simple matter of visiting local art galleries, then contacting the artist whose work appeals to you.

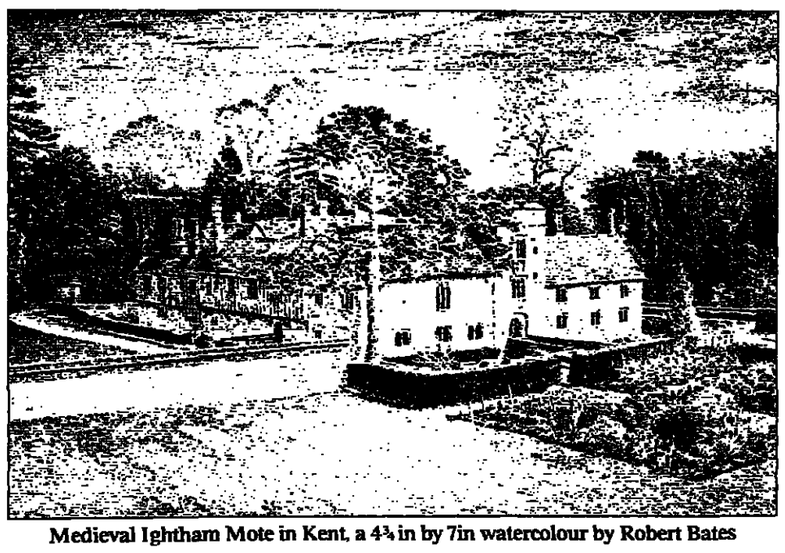
Lyn Fiddian-Green asked Robert Bates to paint a picture of the garden at her home in the Malvern Hills, Worcestershire, after buying one of his landscapes at the Lumley-Cazalet gallery in London. Mr Bates, who lives in Castle Gregory on the Dingle peninsula at Kerry, in the Irish Republic, stayed with the family, took copious photographs, made sketches and later produced three small watercolours.

"I was thrilled," Mrs Fiddian-Green says. "I wanted them for my 11-year-old daughter, Lucy, to remind her of her childhood, and Mr Bates has included her in one of the pictures. The colours are beautiful. Lots of people admire the pictures."

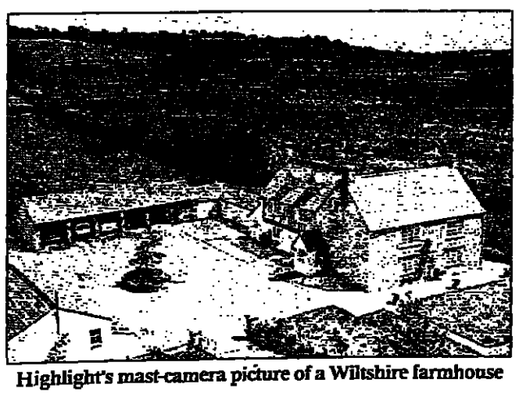
Mr Bates, 51, who trained in Birmingham and at the Royal College of Art in London, usually paints small, highly detailed watercolours of landscapes, but is happy to take on house commissions, for which he charges £1,200 to £1,500, plus expenses.

"I've done quite a few as surprises for people, including one of Glyndebourne for a director who was retiring," he says. "The houses tend to be big, an include a couple for the National Trust, such as medieval Ightham Mote in Kent."

Rose Cecil, 39, has also painted some surprises, the nicest being a present from a best man to a bride and groom — paintings secretly done of their former homes. She also did three paintings of a house in west London for a couple who moved to France and wanted a memento for each of their three children. Her dream commission came recently from Claire Kirkman, who asked her to record her 18th-century house and garden in West Sussex through the four seasons, as a present for her husband. Ms Cecil, who trained at the City and Guilds of London Art College, is compiling about 15 oil and gouache paintings and photographs for this project. She enjoys variety and is just as happy painting a small town house as grander estates, exteriors or interiors, in oils (which cost about £800 a picture) or watercolours (which cost less). But she is not so keen on houses that have been over-restored, because she feels the intrinsic character of the house can often be obscured.



Medieval Ightham Mote in Kent, a 4¾ in by 7in watercolour by Robert Bates



Highlight's mast-camera picture of a Wiltshire farmhouse

Marianne Topham prefers detailed watercolours of interiors, charging from £700 to £1,500, although she also does "artist's impressions" of developers' projects, such as those for the brochure for Prospect Quay at Putney, southwest London, a new riverside development.

She trained at the Byam School of Art and later in Florence. She has had coveted commissions, including a watercolour of the interior designer Nina Campbell's drawing room, and one of St George's Hall, Windsor.

Aerofilms, of Boreham-wood, Hertfordshire, takes aerial photographs. The company was started in 1919 and now has three pilots and three photographers working out of Luton airport, plus a picture library of 1½ million photographs spanning 75 years.

The company took the photographs that were joined together to make the title sequence for the television soap *EastEnders*.

Aerofilms charges £395, plus VAT, for four five-inch-square colour prints, and a further £28 for an A4 print selected from a contact sheet of 12, but it will negotiate special rates if clusters of householders in the same neighbourhood want pictures. There is a summer rate of £195 for taking previously ordered pictures while flying in the area on other business.

A cheaper option is offered by Highsight, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, which has developed a way of taking aerial photographs by using a camera mounted on an 80ft telescopic mast fixed to a van. A small video camera trained on the camera viewfinder is linked to a colour monitor in the van, which enables clients to choose the shots.

This method was developed by Sam Conolly, a former RAF aerial photographer, who accepts jobs throughout the country. "A large framed picture costs about £150, and clients have 12 to choose from," he says.

Highsight was commissioned by Mike Kennett to photograph his five-bedroom Grade II listed farmhouse near Chippenham. "It was very effective, and people asked if it was taken from a helicopter," he says. "In fact, it showed the house off so well that we decided to use it in the estate agent's brochure after trying to sell the house for nine months. It did the trick."

CHRISTINE WEBB

Fact box

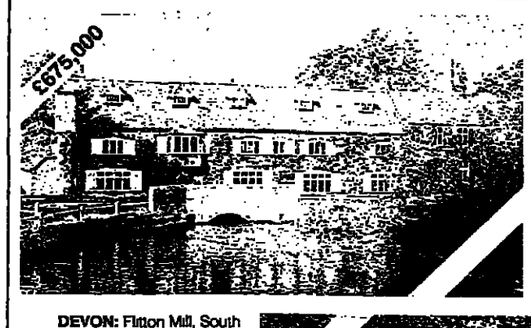
☐ The artists mentioned above all accept commissions: Robert Bates, 003 536 639367. Rose Cecil, 0171-613 4663, Marianne Topham, 0171-730 8147.

☐ Aerial photographs are offered by Aerofilms, 0181-207 0666. Mast-camera pictures are taken by Highsight, 01249 444794.



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BERKSHIRE: Denford Mill, near Hungerford. Converted former mill house in 15 acres of riverside gardens, with lake and watermeadow, and 380 yards of double-bank fishing; also 155 yards of single-bank fishing on the River Kennet. Seven bedrooms, five bathrooms (three en suite), four reception rooms, kitchen, breakfast room, utility room and cloakroom. About £675,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01635 521707)

DEVON: Fitton Mill, South Molton. Grade II listed former mill house in an acre of gardens, with the millstream running through. Close to the Exmoor National Park. Four bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms, kitchen and breakfast room. Garage and stables. About £165,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01392 215631)

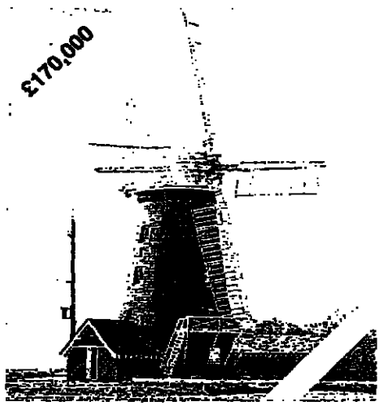


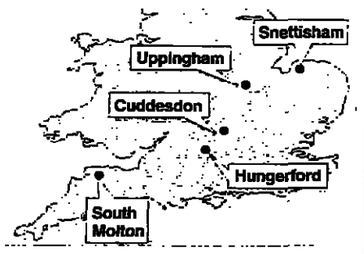


NORFOLK: The Mill House, Snettisham, near King's Lynn. Mill house and listed 18th-century watermill, in 3F acres of landscaped gardens on the River Ingol, with a mill pool and waterfall. Six bedrooms (four with en suite bathrooms), three reception room, study, kitchen and conservatory. About £290,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01603 617431)

OXFORDSHIRE: The Mill House, Cuddesdon. Grade II listed 18th-century mill house with frontage to the River Thame, and an acre of mature gardens. Seven bedrooms, two bathrooms, drawing room, sitting room, dining hall, kitchen/breakfast room, studio, cloakroom, cellar. Former stables now a garage and store. About £480,000 (John D. Wood, 01865 311522)

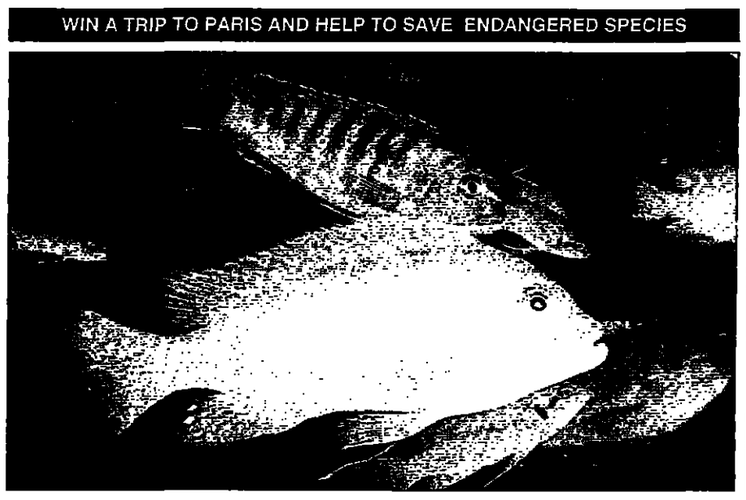






RUTLAND: Morcott Windmill, near Uppingham, Rutland. Grade II listed converted windmill in about 10F acres, with planning permission for a stable building and tack room. Bedroom, bathroom, sitting room and kitchen/breakfast room. About £170,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01858 433 123)

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Readers who attend the preview will be able to enter a fund-raising raffle with a first prize of two nights in Paris for two people. Winners of the Paris trip, courtesy of EuroDrive, will take their car to the French capital by train on Le Shuttle and stay, on a room-only basis, at the Frantour Berthier hotel, located berween Montmartre and the Champs Elysées. It has an indoor swimming pool, four restaurants and an underground car park.

There are three runner-up prizes of a case of red or white wine from the prestigious estate Baron Philippe de Rothschild.

London Zoo is donating two further prizes: an Animal Adoption, which includes a free ticket to the Zoo and a photograph of the winner's favourite species; and a Lifewatch membership, which includes four issues of Lifewatch magazine, invitations to members' events and a ticket for Whipsnade Wild Animal Park. The stallholders are also contributing to the raffle so there will be lots of prizes to win.

Zoobazaar is at the Regency Suite, London Zoo, Outer Circle, Regents Park, London, NW1. Preview: Tues, November 28 6pm-9pm, tickets £5. Public day: Wed, November 29, 10am-5pm, tickets £2.

To book your ticket and for a list of stallholders, please call 0171 722 7662.



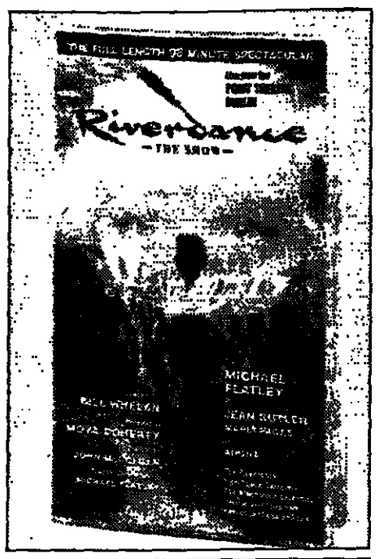
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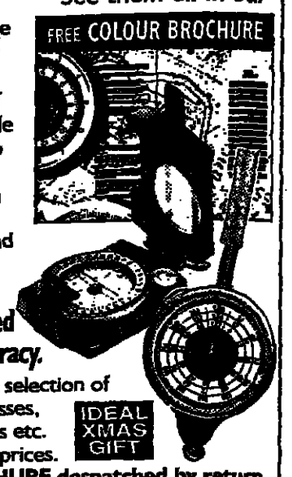
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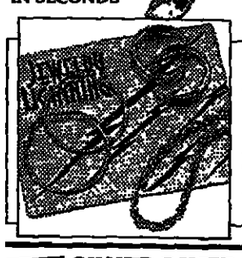
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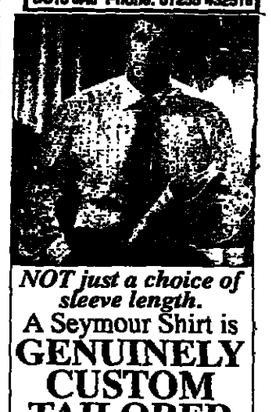
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SHOPAROUND ALSO APPEARS ON PAGES 5 & 6

صكذا من الاصل

With so many children's bicycles on sale and at widely varying prices, how do you choose?





The £199 Dawes Touchdown, left, the £100 Activator, by Raleigh, and, main picture, Halfords' £34.99 Apollo G Wizz

Ride on: a guide to two-wheel street cred



The £399 Scott, part of a range for nine to 12-year-olds

Autumn heralds the start of the Christmas demands for a new bicycle. If your children are not already harassing you for a dream on wheels, be warned: your time will come. According to the Bicycle Association, 60 per cent of bikes are bought for youngsters and more than 80 per cent of schoolchildren own two-wheel vehicles, which doubtless explains the weight of peer group pressure.

Most bikes for school-age children start at about £60 and can leap up to £300. With the enormous range of colours, sizes and styles available, it is easy to make a costly mistake, especially if your offspring are being seduced by pre-Christmas advertising.

Aim to go to a specialist shop rather than a toy shop. Think twice about bikes that are boxed for home assembly. A good outlet will not only put the bike together for you but also check stability and performance, as well as providing an after-sales service.

This year, Raleigh — established in 1887 and, with 30 per cent of British business, the market leader — has a new reflective paint finish called Reflex. This is achieved by spraying glass beads on to the frame before painting in bright green or dark red.

As well as being a safety feature, it gives the bike the flashy street cred so beloved of children. The Reflex finish is on Raleigh ranges for six to ten-year-olds, including the £130 Isis model for girls, with a 20in wheel and five gears.

Reflex also features in teenage ranges, including the £160 26in-wheel Max 15 mountain bike, which has a granite finish. Another new Raleigh feature is Synchro Shock suspension, which helps the bike to glide smoothly over bumps and potholes. Examples are the £150, five-gear, 20in-wheel Activator 20 range, for seven to ten-year-olds, available in black and metallic red, and the £100 16in-wheel Activator 16 for five to seven-year-olds (black and bright blue). Other traditional bikes include Townsend's 18in-wheel Dancer range, with a rear carrier, for six to nine-year-old girls, in bright red (£95).

Scott UK has a Junior Racing range for nine to 12-year-olds, price £399, with 24in wheels, in dark blue with yellow Scott motif on the crossbar. Scott is offering a free first service (within the first six months) to all new bike owners.

Apollo Turbo, £99.99: from Halfords' junior range

Mountain bikes account for at least 50 per cent of the children's bike market, according to Jamie Kennedy, deputy editor of *Cycle Industry*, the trade magazine. A true mountain bike has thick, knobbly treaded tyres, straight handlebars and up to 24 gears. It also has a small, light frame which glides over rough surfaces. Good examples include the Dawes Cycles Touchdown range for boys and girls with 20/24/26in wheels, 18 gears and cantilever brakes. In green or yellow, it costs £199 for models to suit eight-year-olds and above.

If your children need help with gear-changing, Raleigh has a gripshift feature on its Max 5 20in mountain bike bikes for seven to ten-year-olds in Reflex Emerald (£145). To change gear, simply twist the grip on the handle bars. This gear-changing-by-feel helps to keep young eyes on the road.

BMX bikes — robust, small frames and only one gear — are making a small comeback this year, says Graham Smith, buyer at Halfords. Even small children can get in on the act with the £44.99 Universal Cycles 12in-wheel BMX Bandit for two to four-year-olds with red frame, plus stabilisers.

Others include the £85 Townsend Tomboy for girls aged five to ten in Bubblegum Pink with 16in, 18in and 20in wheels. For the over-eights, Universal has the metallic blue £79.99 Super Tracker with 16in or 20in wheels.

Halfords has launched a Price Points range to keep costs down for overburdened parents. It includes the £34.99 postbox-red Apollo G Wizz, which, with a 12in wheel and removable stabilisers, is a good starter bike for three to five-year-olds. Bikes in its Junior Mountain range, with 20in wheels and in colours that include strobe purple/pink and metallic green, for seven to 11-year-olds, cost £79.99 to £144.99.

It is also worth inquiring whether specialist bicycle shops will take an old bicycle in part-exchange.

For today's young rider, accessories are almost as important as the bikes. Stabilisers are usually available on all ranges for five to seven-year-olds but may cost extra so check first.

Some ranges have a sandwich-box carrier and wicker basket in front, among them Summer Breeze by Universal Cycles for four to eight-year-olds, in pink and mint green, and with 16in wheels and stabilisers (£69.99). Raleigh's £90 16in-wheel Genie, for girls aged five to seven, has a doll carrier and removable stabilisers, and is available in red or pink and purple.

JANE BIDDER

SAFETY FIRST

WHATEVER design you choose, the right size is essential, *Jane Bidder writes*. Jamie Kennedy of *Cycle Industry* warns against buying a bike that your child "will grow into"; an oversize bike can lead to accidents. To find the best frame size, ask your child to stand with flat feet on the floor. Check that the crossbar (the upper tube) is at least three-quarters of an inch below his or her crotch. "A sloping crossbar," says Mr Kennedy, "is even better because it is less likely to hurt your child." For correct saddle height, your child should be able to reach the ground on tiptoes or the balls of the feet while sitting. Look for the British Standard number (BS6012), which guarantees that the bike has passed safety tests. Bikes for under-fives should carry the EN71 safety mark.

A very good safety feature is a cantilever-brake system, important because it brings the brake pads together on the wheel at the same time for extra stability.

The most suitable wheel size depends on your child's age, height and weight. Two to four-year-olds will probably need 12in wheels, five to seven-year-olds 14in, seven to ten year-olds 16in and over-tens 20in-plus. Alloy rims make the bike lighter to ride, and metal pedals are better than plastic, which can wear quickly and may break.

Buy a helmet at the same time as the bike. Kevin Clinton, technical officer for road safety at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, says surveys show that helmets could reduce head injuries by up to 85 per cent.

He advises buying your child's helmet through the road safety department of your local authority — many offer ranges at reduced prices to encourage buyers. Or go to a good bike shop.

"A helmet should fit snugly with the top of the helmet just above the eyebrows," he says. "It should not tilt backwards but cover most of the forehead. The straps should go around the ears, not over, and the child should be able to move his or her head without the helmet slipping."

Reluctant wearers could be persuaded by the flashy end of the market, which features lively colours. Mr Clinton cites the Bell range, which starts at around £20, from most bike shops.

The perennial problem is buying a bike that fits and yet is still a surprise on Christmas Day. Do not be tempted to order by phone or to buy without your child first trying the bike. Bike sellers are happy to collude with parents and promise to pass all the details to Father Christmas.

Where to buy

THESE cycle specialists will put you in touch with stockists:

☐ Universal Cycles, 01268 745311: Dawes Cycles, 0121 7066662; Raleigh, 0115 9420202; Halfords, 0345 626625; Townsend Cycles, 01942 262026; Scott UK, 01670 712129.

☐ The Cyclists' Touring Club publishes a free leaflet entitled *Buying a Bike*. Send a large, stamped, addressed envelope (reference *Buying a Bike/Times*) to the CTC, Cotterell House, 69 Meadrow, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3HS (01483 417217).

☐ The Bicycle Association publishes a free leaflet *What Bike?* Send an SAE to the association at Starley House, Eaton Road, Coventry CV1 2FH (01203 553838).

Hand-made in the best of British tradition

Crafty thoughts for Christmas giving

AT MIN & DELL, I have discovered a catalogue for anyone who bemoans the fading of traditional British crafts. The company was set up by Anna Nicholas to market products made by older people of her acquaintance and to give the craftsmen and women a source of income. The company accepts craftspeople from the age of 50, but some are in their eighties. They work at home, and all products are hand-made using natural materials.

As well as the catalogue items, all of which are exclusive, you can commission knitware, wooden boxes and animals and silverware. All gifts in the collection are presented in either red cotton drill bags or red presentation boxes with gold tassels.

You could choose from the sterling silver Ammonite collection, which includes a set of four place-card holders (2in long, £89) and menu holders (2½in long, £45 each). Or consider the white "cobweb" christening robe (£75) and shawl (£72, or £130 for the set), of one-ply Shetland wool, with the delicate look of lace.

Min & Dell also sells traditional hand-knits, including a Fair Isle design for girls in navy blue and green with bright ladybirds on front, back and sleeves and ladybird buttons (ages four to five and six to seven, cardigan £35, beret £14).



Min & Dell's farmyard animals: £25

Other covetable textiles are the hand-made silk and chiffon scarves in marbled soft greens, greys and beiges in generous sizes (silk 43in square, chiffon about 34in square; £40 each). Also good value are the 3½in-square hand-embroidered miniature potpourri cushions (set of four, £25).

Silver jewellery is also on offer — cockleshell cufflinks (£38), shirt studs (£36 for four), earrings (£25) and hand-painted cufflinks including Father Christmas on a gold background (£20). There is also some wonderful woodwork in the catalogue, from the simple hand-carved and turned heart-shaped mahogany box (4in diameter £25) and a hand-turned round stud box, also in mahogany (3in diameter £20).

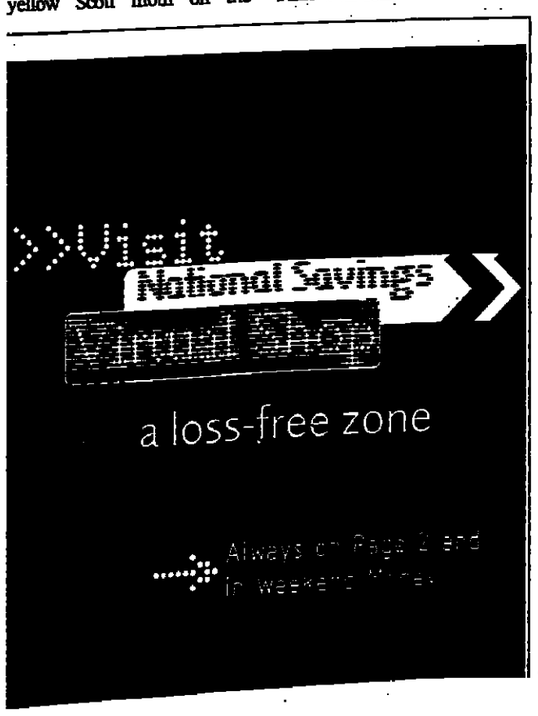
For children, you can choose from five sets of beautifully carved animals — including Dinosaur World (five prehistoric animals, £25), Min & Dell Farm (six farmyard animals, £25) and the Magic Forest (six woodland animals, £25). There is also lovely jewellery and high-quality basketware to consider.

These are things to appreciate and to treasure — traditionally made yet up to the minute in design, so there is nothing stuffy about them.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

● *For a free catalogue, contact Min & Dell Ltd, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1V 4DE (0171-976 6645, fax 0171-233 9136). Last order date for Christmas is December 20.*



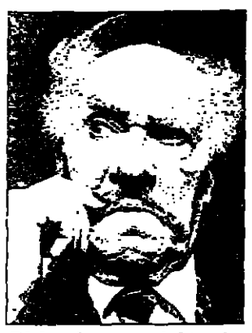


Three knights' bed and board

Michael Arditti revels in the racy details of famous theatrical lives

THREE of the century's best-loved actor-knights, Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson and Robert Stephens, come under the spotlight in the latest batch of theatrical books. Olivier is their common thread, taking the leading role in the diaries of an employee and playing show-stealing cameos in the memoirs of a colleague and the biography of a friend.

In 1956, Olivier appointed the 23-year-old Colin Clark as third assistant director on the film of Rattigan's *The Prince and The Showgirl* which he was making with Marilyn Monroe. Its fairy-tale story was not reflected in the production. Olivier treated Monroe with condescension; she responded by bringing the worst of Hollywood to Pinewood. The ensuing mayhem makes it clear why Clark's father, Kenneth, failed to include cinema in his history of civilisation.



Richardson: partial to gin

Whether stumbling on a naked Monroe ("All I could see were beautiful white and pink curves"), or suffering the proprietorial prurience of her husband, Arthur Miller ("He really is unpleasant"), Clark's observations are a delight.

At the end of the shoot, Olivier went to the Royal Court to play Archie Rice in *The Entertainer*, where his understudy was Robert Stephens. Stephens went on to do much of his finest work for Olivier at the Old Vic, until a fierce row left him to spend several years professionally adrift.

His career had a remarkable late flowering with his Stratford Falstaff, and his memoirs are similarly Falstaffian in their roguish, rumbustious lust for life. Green-room gossips will revel in his scurrilous stories: drama students will learn from his technical tips; theatre lovers will cheer his attacks on directors: though critics may wince at his judgments of plays (*The Lady from the Sea* "the most awful claptrap"; *A Patriot for Me* "wonderful"). These are the most irreverent, engaging and amusing theatrical memoirs I have ever read.

John Miller's authorised biography of Ralph Richardson is a far more sober affair, in spite of his subject's penchant for tumblers of nearly neat gin. He was an intensely private man and Miller respects his posthumous privacy, so much so that he barely mentions either of his wives.

On hearing that Donald Sinden was writing a book about acting, Richardson advised him, "Don't tell them how it's done", and it is clear that neither Miller nor anyone else quite knows how Richardson did it. Instead, Miller focuses on what he did, from pantomime as Dick Whittington in Birmingham, to his first great stage partnership with Gielgud at the Old Vic, his second with Olivier at the New, ending with the glorious Indian summer with Gielgud in the double act they dubbed "the Broker's Men".

Richardson once said, "Silence is the paper on which the actor writes"; all three of these writers manage to recapture some of its most glorious sounds.

■ THE PRINCE, THE SHOWGIRL AND ME
By Colin Clark
HarperCollins, £16.99

■ KNIGHT ERRANT
By Robert Stephens
Hodder & Stoughton, £18.99

■ RALPH RICHARDSON
By John Miller
Sidgwick & Jackson, £16.99

Gerald Kaufman applauds the sheer zest and good nature of Roy Hattersley's political memoirs

Life of the party

I WAS once cheeky enough to write to Joyce Grenfell asking her to grace an Oxford University Labour Club social evening with her presence. She responded with the tactful refusal, "I'm very non-political and never go to party parties".

Roy Hattersley is absolutely the reverse. The author of *Who Goes Home?* asserts that parties of the social kind "are not my style". Political parties, on the other hand, have always been very much his style. His first candidature (as a Tory, he confesses brazenly) was as a precocious pupil at Sheffield City Grammar School. A Labour councillor at 23, he was soon worshipping at the shrine of Hugh Gaitskell, of whose shrill "fight and fight and fight again" oration on nuclear disarmament Hattersley recollects that "nothing I have ever heard has moved me as much".

Soon to retire from the Commons, Hattersley looks back on his political career with a long string of anecdotes. For someone who possesses Hattersley's indefatigable writing talent, this sort of book requires little toil and no need for tedious research (though he has relied on his memory a little too recklessly).

But who cares if he gets wrong the geographical location of Gaitskell's constituency, the title of a Socialist song, the title of a Bergman film, the spelling of the Labour Chief Whip's surname, or the name of Blackpool's principal hotel? Reference books can provide such information. What reference books cannot provide is the sheer zest for the political life — together with a refreshing absence of malice — that permeates every page of this good-natured book.

It is true that, with some effort, Hattersley can summon up the tartness to say of David Owen that he possessed "the power to turn friends into enemies, and the ability to offend when only conciliation was intended". He is much more comfortable writing admiringly of his lamented friend, Tony Crosland, saying that "egalitarian British socialism died with him", and describing how Jim Callaghan, as Foreign Secretary, forced a bevy of British ambassadors to pay for the copies of the Labour Party manifesto with which he supplied them.

Hattersley declares that he owes "the best parts of my life to the Labour Party". He repaid that debt in 1981 when, instead of stampeding out of the party with "that nice Mrs Williams and that clever Dr Owen", he (with others of us) stood his ground and so saved Labour until the time when Tony Blair would enter into his inheritance.

However, David Owen was right about one thing — if, perhaps, only one — when he remarked to Jim Callaghan, "Say what you like about old Hattersley, he stabs you in the front, not the back".

■ WHO GOES HOME?
Scenes from a political life
By Roy Hattersley
Little, Brown, £17.99



Shooting for glory: Ipswich centre-forward Garneys beats the Bournemouth goalkeeper, Godwin, at Highbury in 1952

Before the bung went in

VERY much a game of two halves, this latest model from the latest boom industry: football publishing. The first part is fascinating, dealing with 25 years either side of the Second World War, up to about 1970, when football was *the* national game, thanks largely to the sheer size of the working class.

Those were the days when even second division games drew crowds as big as the populations of small cities; when everybody ate chips, drank pints and smoked 40 fags a day — and that was just the players; when "it was a way of life in which men found their niche because there weren't any women on the terraces", according to Jack Curtis, one of the 200 or so interviewees whose testimonies make up the book.

This golden age is recalled with wit and colour and an admirable lack of sentiment. But then came money, television, glamour, celebrity, hooliganism and two decades in which most men found something else to do with their Saturday afternoons. Too much of the second half concentrates on coaching techniques, and a familiar chronological treatment of the English national side.

The shortcomings of oral history mean that a full analysis of what went wrong with the culture of English football from 1970 to 1990 is absent. Still, the game is now recovering, and this and the many other worthwhile books on its history are part of that process.

ROBERT CRAMPTON

■ KICKING AND SCREAMING
By Rogan Taylor and Andrew Ward
Robson Books, £16.95

On the road to himself

Jan Morris admires what may be Paul Theroux's best travel book yet

THIS smashing book is a sort of anthology, or epitome, of Therouxness. It ostensibly describes a protracted and themeless journey around the shores of the Mediterranean, by train, ship, taxi and, all too often, unspeakably uncomfortable bus. It really describes Paul Theroux.

This is an extremely intricate subject in itself, and set against so tangled and varied a background it assumes a new complexity, even it seems for Theroux himself. Often he stops to wonder what on earth he is up to, and why he has been ambling about in this apparently aimless way. "I was not writing a book — I was living my life . . ."

The Theroux techniques become more subtle with each work, whether it be novel or travel book. On the face of it, *The Pillars of Hercules* is the purest kind of travel writing, recounting the events of a journey day by day. The author tells us what happened, he records what was said, he recalls what he has been thinking. But between the lines an elaborate self-portrait is developing. At first the narrator seems positively guileless; halfway through the book he is in full character as the celebrated travelling curmudgeon; and by the end of the long adventure (a year and a half), he has established an oddly wistful new persona as The Wanderer, or The Man Without A Shadow, frequently telephoning home to Honolulu to appease his loneliness.

His journey is mostly ghastly. What dismal hotels he stays in. What a lot of pornography he finds. How he loathes Greeks, bullfighters and British tourists. What horrible Israeli immigration men he encounters. For Theroux ians such as me, this is, of course, music to the ear. We do not want Theroux contented, we want him truculent and resentful.

But there are many generous perceptions in this book, too, flashes of history, ever-



Theroux: oddly wistful

lively descriptions, bags of courage, and shrewd debunkings of ostentation and autocracy. It all looks so easy, and I imagine there are tyros all over the world trying to write travel books in the Theroux manner. But, of course, his is the art, and it is art of the cleverest kind.

This is a terrific book, full of fun as well as anxiety, of vivid characters and curious experiences — perhaps the best of all Theroux's travel books. The foreground (Theroux) is unforgettably portrayed and the background (the Mediterranean) has never been more gruesomely glimpsed.

■ THE PILLARS OF HERCULES
By Paul Theroux
Hamish Hamilton, £17.50

Language barrier

THE UNNAMED heroine of *A Feather on the Breath of God* describes the perfect ballerina's body as "one long curveless line, fleshless, all muscle and bone", which is a pretty good description of Sigrid Nunez's delicate, spare prose. Language and ways of telling are of vital importance in this extraordinary first novel, in which life is presented as something encoded and inextricably bewildering.

In the narrator's household, her Chinese father hardly speaks at all; her German mother teaches herself English, thereby setting up another degree of separation between herself and the uncommunicative husband she detests.

This tragically mismatched couple met in Germany after the Second World War. Both come from backgrounds complicated beyond the dangers and unsettledness of wartime; neither feels at home in New York, where they live precariously. They are cruelly lost in translation.

The effect on their daughter is heartbreaking. She grows up without anything that might be remotely described as normal; her only experience of families sharing meal times, making conversation or showing affection is from watching television sitcoms — a poor guide to the real world.

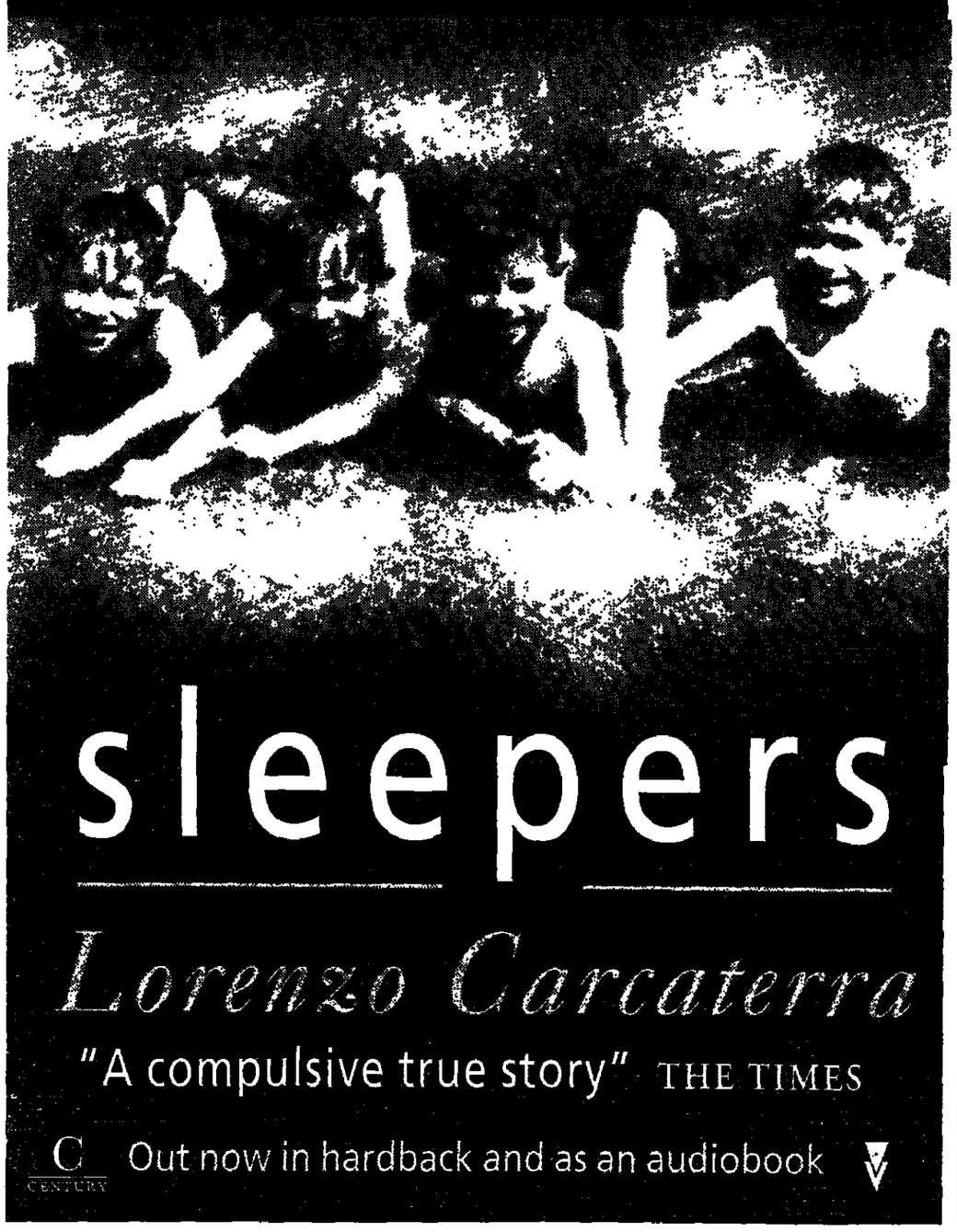
For a time, ballet lessons provide her with a glorious structure. Pain and tedium, for so long a part of her existence, are, in the form of dance exercises, a means to a dreamy end. Later, men become the focal point. Early neglect has given her a longing to be the object of desire. In the masterly concluding section of the book, she describes a ruinous affair with Vadim, a Russian immigrant, as close to a lover from hell as any man can be: pimp, druggie and married to somebody else. The most seductive thing about him is his newly acquired English, which he transforms into a tongue that throbs with passion: "I very love you". "When you put your head on my breast, my heart runs out of me".

For all that, this is a deeply moving story of a harsh and sometimes terrifying upbringing. It is sweetened by a penetrating and sardonic candour that makes you laugh through your tears.

PENNY PERRICK

■ A FEATHER ON THE BREATH OF GOD
By Sigrid Nunez
Bantam, £5.99

This is an unforgettable true story.
It is a story of childhood friendships, of dreams twisted into nightmares, and of four men prepared to risk their lives.



sleepers

Lorenzo Carcaterra

"A compulsive true story" THE TIMES

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KILLING TIME

MICHAEL JOSEPH

Death stalks United Nations week in New York as spymaster David Jardine battles against the clock

صكذا من الاصل

NEW IN PAPERBACK

■ THE EVENING STAR
By Larry McMurtry
Orion, £6.99
FOLLOWING his bittersweet blockbuster, *Terms of Endearment*, Larry McMurtry has produced a sequel in *The Evening Star* which, despite its airport novel size and cover, is resonant with the same gentle irony and acid observations of family life which made its predecessor so appealing.

Fifteen years after the death of her daughter, Aurora Greenway approaches her seventies with her feisty maid and sidekick Rosie Dunlap. Her grandchildren have gone their own ways; one of them, Tommy, serving a life sentence for murder. Aurora's approach to life remains the same winning combination of vanity, charm and reluctant kindness and Rosie provides an ally in her continuing and highly enjoyable manipulation of both suitors and friends. By the end of the book, Aurora is forced to acknowledge the roll of time that brings a new generation to centre stage.

McMurtry shows consummate skill in exposing the haunting sadness that hovers beneath the seeming ordinariness of life. He is attuned more to the shadows than the bright lights of human activity and identifies the randomness of events; celebrating the courage with which we face old age and, finally, death.

■ MY LIFE
By Marc Chagall
Peter Owen, £12.95
BORN into an impoverished Jewish family in the depths of Tsarist Russia at a time when Jews required a permit to travel even within their own country, Chagall nevertheless rose to become one of the most celebrated artists of the 20th century. Studded with his own illustrations, this wildly sentimental but utterly enchanting memoir takes us on a breathless journey from childhood escapades to art school in St Petersburg with Countess Tolstoy and Nijinsky, to his tribulations during the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. A treat.



■ THE HOUNDING OF JOHN THOMAS
By Craig Brown
Arrow, £5.99
HAVING bettered himself with elocution lessons, the former Mellors (who has changed his name to Oliver Thomas to escape notoriety) loses Lady Chatterley to another man but makes a fortune in groceries and sends his son to Oxford. There, the obnoxious John Thomas hones the talents that will make him a brilliantly corrupt politician who makes Francis Urquhart seem tame. But his luck runs out when he makes a mess of murdering a biographer who was about to reveal his parentage. This superbly witty satire targets everyone from prime ministers to lavatory attendants.



■ THE UNLOVED
By Deborah Levy
Vintage, £5.99
A CHRISTMAS holiday in Normandy. Open fires, oysters and calvados, games of Murder in the Dark. A child reads her rebellious grandmother's diary, dated "Tangiers, 1957". Outside, thin trees shiver, while inside, lust flickers between the grown-ups and terrible international memories are revived. While the children eavesdrop and fantasise, the adults corrupt each other. Husbands go rutting. Food rots in the refrigerator. Even Inspector Blanc, investigating a real murder, uses a knife-blade for his lovemaking. Deborah Levy's surreal chiller takes an X-ray of European culture and elegantly pronounces it dead.

Contributors: Lucy Lethbridge, Jake Michie, Nicki Household, Alison Burns

WATERSTONE'S QUIZ ANSWERS

THE ANSWERS to the Bookworm quiz in our supplement *A New Chapter* on October 5 were as follows:

1 Geoffrey Chaucer. 2 William Thackeray. 3 John Fore. 4 G. B. Edwards.
5 Jorge Luis Borges. 6 Milan Kundera. 7 Blood. 8 Fanny Price. 9 Anthony Price.
10 A cynic. 11 Taming of the Shrew. 12 Cuts. 13 Thomas Bowdler.
14 Moll Cutpurse. 15 Dr James Mortimer; Hound of the Baskervilles.
16 Gudrun Brangwen; Women in Love. 17 Nicholas Dyer; Hawksmoor.
18 Catherine Morland; Northanger Abbey. 19 Winnie the Pooh.
20 All won the Nobel Prize for Literature. 21 P. H. Newby.
22 Prix Goncourt. 23 Lord Emsworth. 24 Frederick Raphael. 25 T. S. Eliot. 26 Palinurus.
27 Chaim Potok. 28 Anthony Trollope. 29 David Lodge. 30 Norman Mailer.
31 Margaret Forster. 32 A. N. Wilson. 33 42. 34 Rosamund Lehmann.
35 Edward Bulwer-Lytton. 36 The Color Of Money. 37 Hilaire Belloc.
38 D. H. Lawrence. 39 Ernest Hemingway. 40 Joachim Maria Machado De Assis.

● There were two typographical errors:
Question 8 should have read Sir Thomas, not Edmund, Bertram.
Question 25 should have read "pneumatic", not "eternal", bliss.
These two questions were discounted when entries were marked.

England, their England

Elizabeth Buchan on a humane and honest portrait of middle-class, postwar society

■ CASTING OFF
By Elizabeth Jane Howard
Macmillan, £15.99

THE CAZALETS, headed by the Duchy and the Brig, made their debut in *The Light Years*, set just before the Second World War. Subsequent volumes in the Cazalet Chronicle, *Marking Time* and *Confusion*, trace their fortunes through the war. The valedictory *Casting Off* begins in July 1945 and leaves the survivors in 1947 to face the muddle and privations of an altogether changed society.

Middle-class, reasonably affluent, not in the least intellectual or interested in culture — "the Duchy did not have anything against actresses in general, it was simply that one did not expect to have one in the family" — knitted together by a rigid social structure and by financial interests, they are instantly recognisable, and English to the core. To understand them it is necessary, as patient and unselfish Rachel points out to her would-be lover, Sid, "to understand the understatements, discretion and withholding that were an integral part of the Cazalet life, existing only to uphold affection and good manners".

It is a world easily caricatured and as easily misjudged. Part of Elizabeth Jane Howard's achievement is to evoke not only the limitations of this existence but also the strength and integrity that underpinned it and, thus, she bypasses the shrillness of any political bias.

July 1945 sees the family in some disarray. The war has made inroads: spiritually, physically and financially. The Brig and the Duchy are old. Hugh, the eldest son, is still grieving for the death of his wife, Sybil. Edward, the second son, is hovering between his wife, Villy, and his good-looking mistress, Diana. Rachel is retreating further into duty while Sid watches in despair. Rupert has returned from occupied France and is endeavouring to rebuild his marriage to Zoe.

The young are casting off. Inadequately mothered, Louise, an inadequate mother in turn, is locked into an awful marriage. Polly is recovering from her unrequited love for Archie, the Cazalets' most trusted friend. Clary has got herself into a mess. The family is splintering into its separate units and detaching from Home Place in Sussex, where the wives and children took refuge from the bombs. And, along with old assumptions and certainties, servants are vanishing and


Howard: grace and intelligence

the Cazalet women are facing a life of coping with housework.

Rightly then, food and fatigue run as a seam through *Casting Off*: the struggle to balance the cooking, cleaning and making do, those parameters of the female existence, contributing its share to postwar weariness.

This is not to suggest that *Casting Off* is pessimistic. On the contrary, although it is more fractured in feel than the previous volumes, it relies on a conventional romantic structure to tie up the ends. A fresh wind is also blowing through the story and change is taking place. Polly, Clary and Louise are beginning to take charge of their lives in a manner denied to their mothers. As Hugh woos another woman, he tells her, "I want to know how you feel": a triumphant regeneration after a marriage whose jungle paths had been so tangled around politeness and diffidence that neither party was ever honest with the other.

If reading fiction is to try on other people's lives for the fit, then the Cazalet Chronicle is virtually without a wrinkle. With their immersion in everyday detail and their careful delineation of the gap between classes and generations, the novels constitute a precise and convincing piece of social history.

Yet, to consider that this is the total sum is wrong. In *Casting Off*, and in the others, the author draws the reader with seemingly effortless grace, craft and intelligence into the inner lives of her characters, and into the subterranean emotions and loyalties of a family, and does so with a radiant humanity and truth.

Who dares to live to tell the tale

■ IMMEDIATE ACTION
By Andy McNab
Bantam, £15.99

ONE OF the most memorable television images of the past decade was of the black-clad SAS storming the Iranian embassy in 1980. Before then, the public knew little of the Special Air Service or its motto "Who Dares Wins". But that single, fearless act, beamed into every British home, transformed the Regiment into a national fixation, spawning scores of books and films of variable quality.

Andy McNab's new memoir is the real thing. I doubt that his vivid recollections of years in the SAS reveal much that Britain's enemies did not know already. Nonetheless, it is not hard to see why the Ministry of Defence tried to ban this book. The strength of *Immediate Action* lies in its detail. After more than 300 pages, one has a sense of what it is to be one of the world's most lethal soldiers.

This book's predecessor, *Bravo Two Zero*, an account of SAS action behind enemy lines in the Gulf War, was a compelling read, full of gamey language and recollections of endurance. In *Immediate Action*, McNab tells the story of his military career up till then, and tells it well.

A tearaway from Bermondsey, McNab discovered he had an instinctive aptitude for army life. For this promising young infantryman, joining the SAS quickly became an obsession and the first third of the book describes his determined efforts to pass its gruelling selection tests.

Day after day, he marched in full kit through all weathers to make the grade. He was then sent to the Malayan jungle to withstand the least comfortable conditions in the world. Accepted as one of the team, McNab embarked upon a life of astonishing danger and intermittent violence — a life he relished until he left the army as its most decorated serviceman.

It is said that you have to be a psychopath to be in the SAS, but this book tells a different tale. What shines through is a sense of belonging, a fierce and patriotic desire to defend squadron, regiment, army, nation.

Even before joining the SAS, McNab says of his first Ulster tour that "I was there because I wanted to do something for my own little gang". It is this simple integrity that makes *Immediate Action* much more than a jingoistic adventure story.

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

Nelson Mandela and his Afrikaner prison guard became unlikely friends, says **Justin Cartwright**

Jailer to the President

AS I READ the extraordinary story of the friendship between Nelson Mandela and his jailer, James Gregory, I found tears in my eyes, even though at times I wondered if the book gives anything like the whole story. Some of the doubts are in the detail. The burgeoning of their relationship, for instance, is left rather vague and the Robben Island section of it, 13 years, is less significant to Mandela than the book suggests. Mandela in his autobiography says that they became close only after his transfer to Pollsmoor in 1982.

Enough quibbling. It seems that from the moment in 1969 when Gregory saw Mandela standing tall, "his ramrod back and broad shoulders prominent" amid a group of prisoners on Robben Island, he was on the way to finding the father figure his life had, so far, lacked. Gregory was a loner, an Afrikaans farm boy who had been neglected by his parents. Gregory, or his collaborator, makes much of his early upbringing on a farm, where his only friend was a Zulu boy, Bafana, from whom he was separated when he went away to school.

Gregory's history is, in some ways, typical of the Afrikaners who joined the civil service in numbers. Government employment gave many economically marginal Afrikaners a living after apartheid's formal introduction, so the police and prison service have long been a home for the young, the tough and the none too fastidious.

Yet Gregory was clearly different. He tells of Mandela's distress at the treatment of his family, and his longing

■ GOODBYE BAFANA: Nelson Mandela, My Prisoner My Friend
By James Gregory
Headline, £17.99

to see his children and grandchildren. When Mandela's son was killed in a motor accident, Gregory then a young man, lent him what support he could. At exactly the same age and almost 20 years later, Gregory's son was killed in a car crash and Mandela appears to have saved Gregory from despair and even suicide by talking to him daily for weeks.

For 24 years, Gregory had to censor Mandela's letters and listen to his family meetings. He does not say if he was expected to report them to Pretoria, but he acquired a knowledge of the intimate details of Mandela's family life second to none. The more he was involved pesonally in their lives, the more he tried to be as helpful and considerate in small detail as he could.

Although not every detail of the book rings true, it is a remarkable story full of touching moments. The account of Gregory holding Mandela's hand and reassuring him in front of astonished nurses as he came round from an operation brought tears to my eyes for the umpteenth time. And Winnie's horror on learning that Nelson had learnt from a warder how to make a *braai*, the barbecue which is a quintessential white South African pastime, is hilarious.

In the end Gregory's desolation at the prospect of losing Mandela's company — "the many wonderful hours we spent together" — is heartbreakingly authentic.


Taking his first steps away from his jailers, Nelson Mandela walks out of prison

TIMES BOOKS

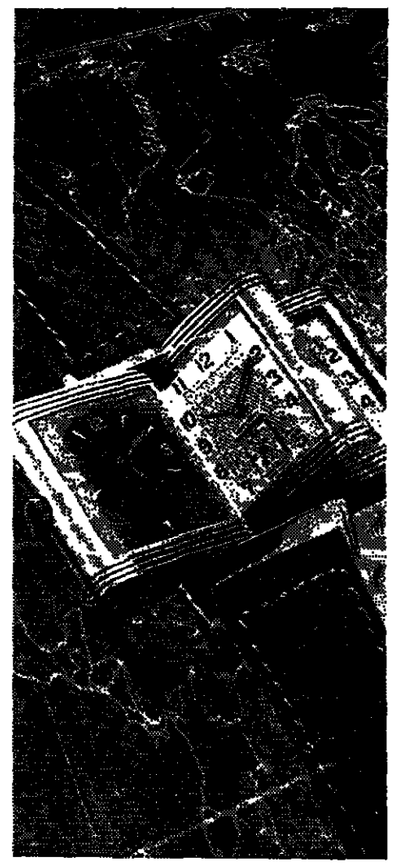
THURSDAY

Oliver Letwin on *Simon Jenkins and Peter Hennessy*; Woodrow Wyatt on the Gladwyn diaries; and Mark Steyn on Dennis Potter

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CHRISTMAS GETAWAYS: **Jill Crawshaw** selects unusual British places to spend the festive season...

Make merry in an island fort, manor or lighthouse

CHRISTMAS FOLLIES

ALDERNEY's Fort Clonque is reached by a causeway and was built in 1847 to house ten 64-pounder guns to protect the harbour. Now restored by the Landmark Trust. It can be rented over Christmas and costs £1,411 a week, sleeping 12 in simple, though not spartan, accommodation.

The trust has other eccentric Christmas boltholes, including the Pineapple in Dunmore, Stirlingshire, a two-storey summer house built for the 4th Earl of Dunmore between 1760-80. This can take four people, and costs £687 for the week. Also in Scotland, the Old Place of Monreith is a fine manor house two miles from the sea, and traditionally furnished for eight holidaymakers, at £771 a week.

St Winifred's Well, near Oswestry in Shropshire (see picture) is visited by pilgrims. It is in a secluded spot for two, and still available at £480 for the week.

For a really get-away-from-it-all Christmas, the trust offers several properties on Lundy island, in the Bristol Channel, though there is the island tavern to escape to if too much togetherness gets you down. The most remote of these properties is the Admiralty Lookout (£337 for four people), which has bunk beds and no electricity. Another, The Old Light, the former lighthouse keeper's quarters, has more mod cons, sleeps five and costs £550 for the week.

● *The Landmark Trust, Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3SW (01628 825925). Its handbook costs £8.50, refunded if you book a property.*

DORMOUSE PATROL

VOLUNTEERS with enthusiasm, wellies and waterproofs are needed by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) to work on some of its 30 projects over Christmas and New Year. You could spend Christmas Day coppicing an old woodland in Wiltshire, cleaning scrub in Lincolnshire, planting trees in County Down, or helping to restore the garden of Heligan Manor in Cornwall. Or you could spend Hogmanay at High Head in Cumbria, overlooking the peaks of Skiddaw, repairing hedges.

The organisation's most popular project is in Rockingham Forest, Northampton, the home of more than 60 recorded dormice. The work here is to ensure that the animals can move about freely in their habitat.

No experience is needed for these projects; volunteers from 16-85 are welcome. Prices start at £30 for the week to cover food and simple accommodation, plus a few seasonal trimmings.

● *BTCV, 01491 824602.*

GREEN COTTAGES

THE National Trust offers about 90 cottages, most with open fires, for parties of two to six for Christmas and New Year.

For a three-day break, you can have a green Christmas at one of its environmentally friendly cottages, which include alternative technology heating, dry-compost lavatories and eco-sensitive materials for washing up and cleaning. Horsey Barn, near the Norfolk Broads, costs £206 for three people on a three-day break.

Less ecologically sound, but dramatically situated, High Lidmoor Farmhouse on the Yorkshire Moors can accommodate five visitors for £456 a week, while Nantlas, originally a 19th-century observatory in the Snowdonia Natural Park, with magnificent views and sleeping two, can be yours for £292, including a supply of logs and coal.

In South Wales, Quay Cottage at Stackpole Quay, a small natural harbour that used to trade with the Continent, takes three people for £384. Most of the furniture in the cottage has been made at the trust's workshops at Erddig. Every group booking a Christmas break with the National Trust gets a complimentary hamper with traditional pudding, special teas, jams and other festive fare.

● *National Trust Holiday Cottages, 01225 791199*

RENT A HOSTEL

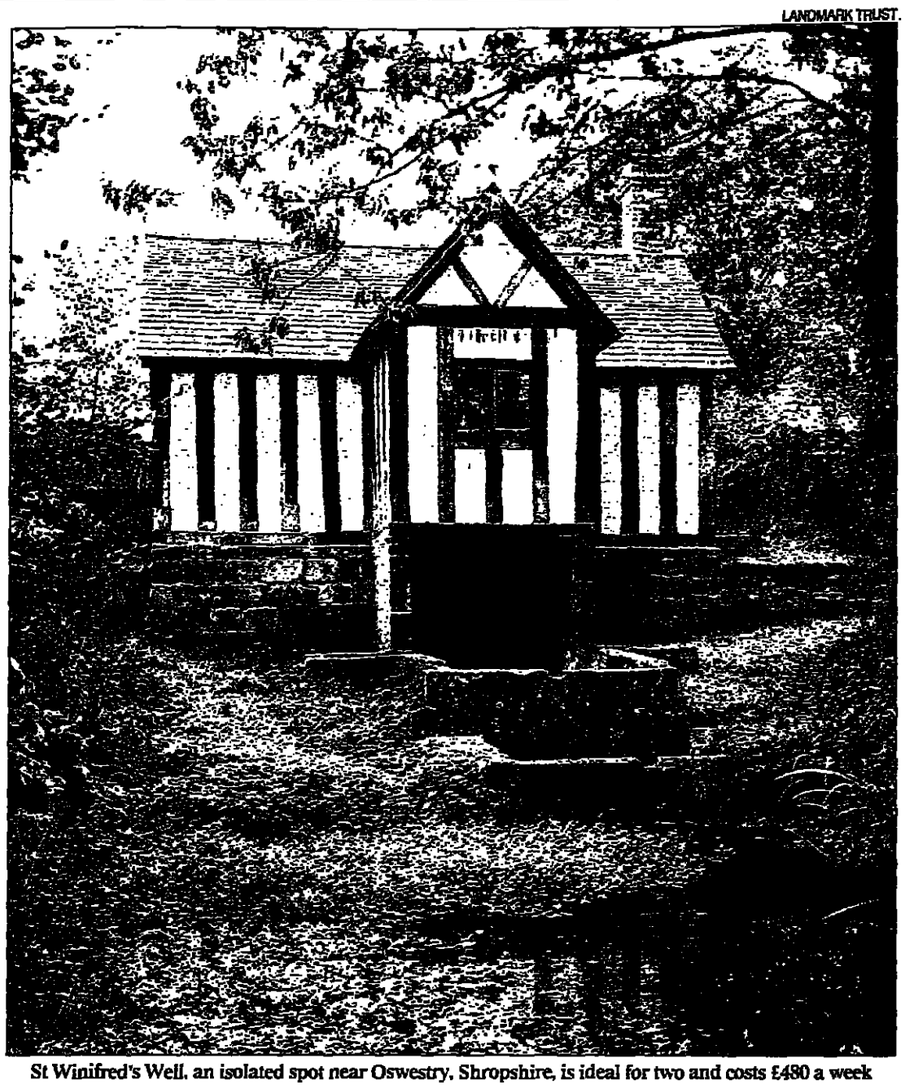
MORE that 30 youth hostels can be hired for large parties of families or friends on a self-catering "Rent a Hostel" Christmas break. Among them is a former watermill (still with wheel) — the Cockermouth Youth Hostel in Cumbria — where a three-night break costs £380. The hostel can sleep 28 people.

Ten miles from central London, the Epping Forest Youth Hostel can take 36, and costs £455 for a four-night stay, beginning on Christmas Eve.

Christmas holidays on a full or half-board basis are on offer at other hostels, including Grinton Lodge, a former shooting lodge overlooking Swaledale in North Yorkshire, and a base for exploring Herriot Country. A three-night, full-board stay here, with Christmas and Boxing Day meals, works out at £85 for adults, £65 for children under 18.

You can attend Christmas Mass in the cathedral on a Christmas break at Salisbury Youth Hostel, a listed house with two acres of gardens. Overnight prices are £8 per adult, £5.95 for under 18s, with optional meals on Christmas Eve at £6 and £4 respectively; £15 and £8 on Christmas Day, and £10 and £6 on Boxing Day.

● *YHA, 01727 855215.*



LANDMARK TRUST

St Winifred's Well, an isolated spot near Oswestry, Shropshire, is ideal for two and costs £480 a week

ISLANDS AND RETREATS

SOME interesting island homes are offered by Rural Retreats, the prices for which include electricity, logs, grocery hampers and wine.

The House of Machrie, which costs £1,650 for 14 people over Christmas week, was once the principal farm on the island of Arran. The crossing from Ardrossan on the mainland to Brodick takes an hour.

Bonny Blink, on the Isle of Wight, is on the beach at Seaview. Eight people can share the house for £1,150 a week.

A smaller, remote, semi-detached Edwardian stone cottage on a nature reserve (deer are regularly spotted), three miles from Dulverton in Somerset offers the ideal hideaway for four people, but not if they smoke or want to bring dogs. The cost of the cottage is £630 per week.

All houses have open fires or wood-burning stoves, in addition to central heating.

● *Rural Retreats, 01386 701177*

FESTIVITIES AFLOAT

NARROWBOATS offer escape from rowdy revellers, because Christmas is one of the quietest periods on the waterways. Boating specialists Blakes and Hoseasons can supply well-equipped craft with galleys, carpeting and central heating. There's a wood-burning stove on Buttermere, one of Blake's narrowboats based at Bunbury, Cheshire, which costs £521 for a week and can sleep five.

Holly Lass, from Hoseasons, is based at Guildford, Surrey, and designed and decorated in traditional canal style, and has a solid-fuel stove. It plies the River Wey and the 37-mile Basingstoke Canal.

Cabin cruisers are available on the Norfolk Broads, accommodating from two to 12 people, and costing £360-£500 for a week.

● *Blakes, 01603 782141; Hoseasons, 01502 501010.*

MOUNTAIN GLENS

RURAL Cottage Holidays is a Northern Ireland venture offering restored properties in the country or small villages. From Island Cottage, on a cliff in the Glens of Antrim, you can gaze across the North Channel to the Mull of Kintyre and the Ayrshire Coast. It sleeps five, has a farmhouse kitchen, a sitting room with an open hearth and turf fire, and a garden. Christmas week costs £250.

Overlooking the Mountains of Mourne, an area of outstanding natural beauty, Clanvaraghan House costs £200 for a week's stay for five people. It's near the town of Newcastle and the Royal County Down championship golf course. Be warned: the nearest pub, the Slieve Croob Inn, is three miles away.

● *Rural Cottage Holidays, 01232 231221.*

POSH PADS

BLANDINGS offers castles, mansions, manor houses, smaller exquisite homes and cottages. The stately mansion Birkhill lies in its 2,000 acres on the banks of the Tay Estuary. A Grade I listed property, furnished with antiques, mounted stags heads, family armoury, four pianos and an organ in the billiard room, the house can take a party of up to 16 adults and two children, the latter having their own sitting and playroom. The basic price is £5,500 for the Christmas week. Hunting, shooting, fishing, extra staff and a Mercedes with chauffeur can be arranged.

At a more modest £1,800 a week for eight people, Lyminton House in the New Forest, Hampshire, is a renovated vicarage with about two acres of gardens. Near the village of East Boldre, it is under three miles from Beaulieu. There are several golf courses nearby.

● *Blandings, 01223 293444*

☐ **Some of the properties mentioned above may now be booked up for the dates given, but the companies have others available.**

COLLECT 30 TOKENS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN £20,000 CASH FOR AN 80-DAY HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME — PLUS SAVE 10% ON ALL HOLIDAYS FEATURED

Win a 15-day holiday to Africa

Today and every day until the end of December, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two. There is also an opportunity to win £20,000 cash for an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

Our series of 80 holidays around the world includes a range of short breaks, tours, cruises and adventurous trips worth more than £150,000 in total. So far readers have won a variety of exciting holidays including Brazil, Machu Picchu, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Grenada. Today's prize begins a week of luxury safaris to a number of African countries and wine-tasting tours to South Africa.

In addition, readers of both newspapers will be able to book all the holidays featured in our exclusive 80-day competition at a special discount of 10 per cent off the brochure price.

Many of these discounted tours include five-star accommodation, transfers and sightseeing, and the 10 per cent discount applies to all the holidays featured regardless of the price.

There are a number of tour operators collaborating on this Around the World adventure and to get brochures for any of the holidays featured in previous weeks, you should write to: *The Times* Brochure Service, PO Box 9, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8QQ.

Bookings for most of the 80 holidays featured should be made through Cox & Kings before February 28, 1996. All other terms and conditions relating to these holiday competitions and offers are contained in the brochures.



Stand on Knife Edge bridge for a spectacular view of Victoria Falls

Next week we will be offering you the chance to win holidays to Kenya, Botswana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe with Africa Exclusive, who arrange safaris for people who have fallen in love with Africa, or who think they might. It is a small company launched five years ago by John Burdett, a former City banker, who used to go there regularly on business trips and who subsequently became a marketing executive for a relief agency in Africa.

Now he employs 16 staff and has a turnover of £3.5 million. Mr Burdett said, "I had no standard travel experience but do not necessarily think that is a disadvantage. You come at it with fresh eyes and although we had a struggle at first, now we take 800-900 people a year and we focus on the parts of Africa tourists normally don't go to."

HOW TO WIN £20,000

By collecting 30 of the 80 tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* until December 28, you have the chance to win £20,000 cash to spend on an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

The winner will be given help by Cox & Kings to workout a holiday itinerary to take them to some of the places they have always dreamed of going to.

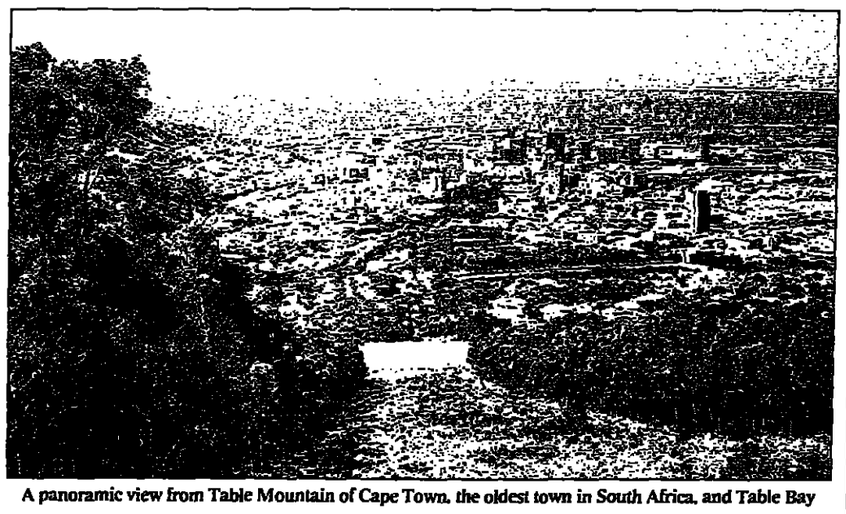
Attach your 30 differently numbered tokens to the completed entry form below and you will be entered into our prize draw. Readers may collect 60 tokens for two chances of winning.

Previously published tokens may be obtained free of charge by sending a sae to: *The Times/Sunday Times* Holiday of a Lifetime Competition, Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN. A maximum of four tokens can be supplied per application.

AFRICA EXCLUSIVE

FOR YOUR 10% HOLIDAY DISCOUNT CALL FOR A BROCHURE ON: 01604 31900

A safari and wine trip worth £5,000



A panoramic view from Table Mountain of Cape Town, the oldest town in South Africa, and Table Bay

Today's prize, worth more than £5,000 for two people, is a 15-day safari and wine-tasting holiday, with Africa Exclusive, which has been tailored for *Times* readers.

Days 1-4 Arrive in Harare, Zimbabwe, and transfer to Musango Camp on the shore of Lake Kariba, 350 miles north-west, owned by Steve Edwards, a qualified guide. Guests stay for three days in luxury tents which have proper beds and flush toilets. Mr Edwards escorts visitors on safari by boat and on foot for three days when they see a variety of wildlife from elephants ridding themselves of insects and lions sauntering to the water's edge to drink. He will warn you to watch out for crocodiles, often undetectable until they move. **Days 5-7** Fly to the new Victoria Falls Safari Lodge or the Victoria Falls Hotel, twenty minutes stroll from the mile-wide waterfall on the Zambesi river, base for optional activities. **Days 8-10** Fly to Cape Town where you pick up your hire car and drive to the Constantia Uitsig, a country lodge, outside the town. Visit Cape Town, Table Mountain and the Peninsula. **Days 11-12** A day's guided tour of the Winelands, including visits to the Simonsig and Vergelegen Estates. Stay two nights at Rodeberg Lodge near Paarl. **Days 13-15** A two-hour drive east to Ai Due Camini, a lovely old house overlooking Knysna Lagoon. See the spectacular coastal scenery and mountainous hinterland before flying back to London overnight.

DATES OF DEPARTURES: January 15-June 30, 1996. All safaris can cater for just one or two people and the dates are flexible. Some camps/hotels are seasonal. The price is £2,330, down from £2,590, including flights, accommodation, bed and breakfast, except at Musango where all safaris and meals are provided, wine tour and car hire. If you want to book today's holiday, taking advantage of our exclusive 10 per cent discount, call the brochure hotline on: 01604 31900

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win today's prize of a holiday to Africa, phone your answers to the two questions below on our competition hotline: **0891 40 50 34** before midnight tonight. Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.

The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

THE QUESTIONS

1. Which is the oldest town in South Africa?

2. Beside which lake is Musango Camp?

THE TIMES
Around the World in 80 Days
£20,000
TOKEN 27

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM

I enclose 30 tokens from *The Times/Sunday Times* and wish to enter the prize draw. Send to: Around The World Prize Draw, PO Box 6885, London E2 8SR. Closing date Friday January 12, 1996

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ..... First Name .....

Surname .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

1. Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)
1) 15-24 ☐ 2) 25-34 ☐ 3) 35-44 ☐ 4) 45-54 ☐ 5) 55-64 ☐ 6) 65+ ☐

2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

Times Newspapers and its marketing partners would like to inform you of future products and offers. If you would prefer not to receive such information, please tick here. ☐

IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW: WIN A HOLIDAY TO KENYA

هكذا من الاصل

... Plus, where to take the family for a weekend of activity or relaxation in beautiful English countryside

A chance to tone up and wind down

If your idea of a relaxing weekend is staying at a smart hotel, catching up on books, eating and drinking to mild excess and then taking gentle walks, don't book into Foxhills. The country club near Ottershaw, Surrey, not far from where the M25 crosses the M3, could provide this if you choose. But this is more a place for energetic types, those who prefer the rapid route to working off Christmas.

Our "active break" was in mid-June, when the rhododendron bushes were in glorious purple bloom, and the golf course beyond the lawns looked invitingly lush. In a couple of days, determined to make the most of our stay, we went activity mad.

The children, aged 5 and 3, were limited by their age in what they could choose. First we left them for a half-hour lesson of "short-tennis", swiping away to little effect.



Foxhills: for the active

I decided it was time to learn how to play golf properly, and headed off for a lesson — not with Bernard Hunt, the PGA captain, who teaches there, but with Alasdair Good, the head professional. On the 400-acre estate there are two championship golf courses, a nine-hole academy and a driving range.

"Imagine you are cradling a little bird in your hand," Alasdair said. I did what I was told and miraculously began to drive the balls straight and true. The concentration needed to get the stance and the grip right is intense; the crack when you hit the ball spot on and see it soar away for miles — actually about 150 yards, but you feel like Jack Nicklaus — immensely satisfying. The fact that I couldn't chip or putt was beside the point.

The children had been looked after in the crèche, while my wife had had a supervised workout in the new health spa. As someone who enjoys the full ghastliness of rowing machines and weights, she was a discriminating customer. Happy and dripping, she came out impressed by the fitness plan tailored for her.

Later the children swam with me in the indoor pool (two heart-stopping moments, as shallow suddenly becomes deep with little warning, and there was no life-guard). They went riding in the countryside, and both parents in a moment of eccentricity booked themselves in for "body exfoliation and lymph-drainage massage" in the bedroom before dinner, while the babysitter looked after the girls.

I have nothing against massage. But how can you *tell*, after being scraped all over by a mild kitchen scourer that a) your "detoxification" has been aided; b) that your "fluid retention" has been reduced; and c) that your skin has been "refreshed"? And was it worth £27? Well, the aromatherapy oils were nice. My wife felt so relaxed that she could hardly rouse herself for dinner.

The food at Foxhills is good, the buffet on Sunday in the attractive manor especially luscious, with temptation beyond what should be allowed. Breakfast was in a restaurant with views over the golf course. Our middle-of-the-range rooms were spacious and comfortable; grander ones with sitting-room and gallery are luxurious.

We didn't get around to squash, archery, boules, billiards, steam rooms, sauna, other beauty treatments, or jazz, tap and modern dance classes (for adults or children), though my wife squeezed in a hi-tech step class. The staff, whether on the court, in the gym, or in the dining-room, were all first rate.

Relaxing? Extremely. I barely had time to read a word.

TIMOTHY RICE

● *The author was a guest of Foxhills, Ottershaw, Surrey KT16 0EL (01932 872050). Active Break Weekends start from £260 per couple, including two nights' half board and complimentary use of all facilities except beauty treatments, 18-hole golf and riding. Foxhills is booked up for Christmas, but there are children's seasonal celebrations on December 17.*

Hours of playtime on Broadway

From the top of Broadway Tower in the Cotswolds — built on a hill 1,025ft above sea level — you can see 12 counties on a clear day. So the guide books say. On a clear, frosty morning last winter I climbed, I looked and I saw. But nobody could tell me what I was seeing, and everyone I asked, from local shopkeers to the tourist office, seemed baffled about why I should want to know the names of the 12 counties.

A relaxed atmosphere pervades Broadway and makes it an ideal escape from the hurly-burly of city life. Mellow stone houses dot the high street across an immaculate green. Most are 18th century, and many have leaded windows set off by aged topiary.

Plumb in the centre of the town is the Lygon Arms, which has been an inn for 400 years. It is a favourite with the Cheltenham Gold Cup race-going crowd. It is also the best place for a cosy winter weekend: grandfather clocks tick time away; log fires roar; and food, as opposed to *cuisine*, is served — sausages, rabbit with chestnut and brandy sauce, and proper puddings.



The 400-year-old Lygon Arms in Broadway offers cosy weekends, with its roaring log fires and good English food

In the old days, an inn had to offer only decent stabling, good food, comfortable beds and welcoming log fires. Today, the Lygon Arms has yielded to the demands of fashion with a smart indoor swimming-pool and a large beauty area. "Relax while the Faradic pads simulate exercise," says the pamphlet in the beauty area — "especially effective on stomach and buttocks", and "The Hollywood facial for those with premature lines."

Children are welcomed to the Lygon Arms with open arms and a set of Body Shop soaps and bubbles with which to flood the bathroom. This is a good area for families, with scenic walks and cycling. To the right of the church, a track leads into open countryside and hills in the distance — the Cotswold Way. This 100-mile walk, through some of the heart of England's most idyllic countryside, runs from Chipping Campden to Bath, and is a cheaper way to trim the fat than a trip to the Lygon Arms's beauty parlour.

Shopaholics are served by the town itself, known as the Bond Street of the Cotswolds: tasteful shops sell jewellery, silk clothes, ghastly gifts and delicious cream teas.

The Lygon Arms has a peaceful garden, offering a foretaste of some of England's most renowned gardens, which are a short and picturesque drive away for those who choose to stay in spring or summer.

Snowshill, a mile away, is a pretty, almost cottage-style garden on a grand scale. Sezincote, near Moreton-in-Marsh, is a grander affair, with a water garden meandering down one side of a hill giving glorious views across the Cotswolds. Hidcote Manor, near Chipping Campden, is one of Britain's most famous gardens, created at the turn of the century by the Francophile American, Lawrence Johnston.

And those 12 counties to be seen from Broadway Tower? For the record, they are: Hereford and Worcester, Dyfed, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Shropshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Wiltshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Avon and Gwent.

JANE OWEN

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of The Lygon Arms, Broadway, Worcestershire (01386 852255).

☐ A standard double room with ensuite bathroom costs £140 per night excluding VAT and including breakfast.

☐ A four-day Christmas programme beginning December 23, from £252 per person per day for a single room, includes morning tea, meals, entertainment and use of the Country Club.

☐ Broadway Tourist Office (01386 852 937)

Oh, to stay in England

There is something satisfying about filling the boot of a car with suitcases, boots, and the rest of leisure's paraphernalia — then sweeping past the holiday-makers streaming into an airport.

While those who are convinced that relaxation can only be found beyond these shores were still waiting in the departure lounge, we were turning off the motorway and into an England which must still be one of the most beautiful, unspoilt and relaxing places in the world.



The 18th-century Hunstrete House set in 92 acres

The Lords of the Manor Hotel, in the Cotswolds village of Upper Slaughter, is one of hundreds throughout Britain which were once grand country houses. Many, such as Lords of the Manor, are now run by people determined to re-create the grace of the past. And they are now appealing to the hedonism of those who are prepared to spend as much on pampering themselves over a long weekend as they would on a ten-day holiday in a Mediterranean, purpose-built resort.

But Upper Slaughter is middle England, cold in the early summer, uncomplicated, empty — and enthralling.

In the hotel there are deep-pile carpets, staff to take care of everything from parking the car to producing a decanter of pre-dinner dry sherry in the bedroom, croquet and fine food. The fillet of turbot, for example, is alone reason enough to justify the hotel's Michelin star, three AA red rosettes and *Good Food Guide* prize for County Restaurant of the Year.

Lords of the Manor, with many other hotels in the Small Luxury Hotels of the World chain, offers "No Guilty Conscience" breaks, where guests are encouraged to "over-indulge, appear extravagant or eat and drink the 'wrong' things".

Weekend breaks cost from £80 a night per person and include à la carte dinner, English breakfast and VAT. For not much more you may be able to fly to Majorca for a week. It depends what you want. I know which I prefer.

So much so, that my wife and I repeated the experience, this time at Hunstrete House near Bath, one of the growing number of country-house hotels owned by the Arcadian group. The 18th-century house in 92 acres of deer park, woodland and gardens, which provide much of the produce used in the cooking, is elegant and welcoming.

Propped against the door as we arrived were a couple of bicycles. Neither of us had ridden for more years than we cared to remember, but down the cow-parsleyed lane we went. A pint in the pub a few miles away, and then back to wines of quality, dinner to satiate both gourmands and gourmets and the high, welcoming cotton-sheeted bed. A two-night break, including dinner, bed, breakfast, morning tea and newspapers, costs £185 per person.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

English country hotel fact file

☐ The author was a guest of both hotels. Lords of the Manor (01451 820243) has Christmas and New Year breaks ranging from £145 per person for two nights immediately before or after Christmas, to £525 for three nights in one of the best bedrooms and meals from Christmas Eve to Boxing Day. Midweek breaks from November 1 to April 1996 from £69.50 per night with à la carte dinner and breakfast.

☐ Hunstrete House (01761 490490) charges £525 per person for the three-night Christmas break, with meals. One night on New Year's Eve costs £175 including dinner and breakfast. The Christmas break carries a £120 room supplement and New Year's Eve a supplement of £40 for single occupancy of a double or twin room.

CHRISTMAS HOTEL TIPS

☐ Oakley Court Hotel at Windsor (01753 609 988) will arrange Boxing Day boating down the Thames to Eton, as well as champagne, mince pies, a candlelit Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa Claus, *Michael Leventhal writes*. Three-night packages with full board cost £395 per person.

☐ Farm and Cottage Holidays (01237 479698) has Cornish cottages with wooden beams and log fires for the Christmas period. Retreats in quiet hamlets start at £241 per cottage for a week.

☐ Grand Heritage Hotels (0171-376 1777) is holding a German Beer Keller evening on Christmas Day at the Redworth Hall Hotel and Country Club in Co Durham, near Newcastle upon Tyne and guided tours of the Ripley Castle Estate in Yorkshire, five miles south of Harrogate. Full-board packages cost between £275 and £375 per person for four nights.

☐ Nailcote Hall near Stratford, Warwickshire (0181-390 8513), hosts a Christmas murder-mystery package where guests piece together clues and solve the murder of Santa Claus. Prices start from £489 per person for a four-day half-board break and include briefings with former CID detectives.

☐ Acorn Activities (01432 830083) offers an activity break from December 23-26 at Beacons Edge Country Inn on the Hereford/Wales border. £220 per person, including abseiling and white-water rafting. Acorn also offers *three nights at Castle Pool Hotel*, Hereford, from December 24-27. £375 per person, including a Murder Mystery Dinner and pony-trekking. Both breaks include Christmas lunch.

☐ The Marine Highland Hotel at Troon, Ayrshire, is offering a Scottish Christmas with whisky tasting and a trip to the Ayr Races on Boxing Day. Three-night packages cost £295, per person with full board (Super-break Mini-Holidays: 01904 679999).

☐ Ninety Travel Inns (reservations, 01582 414341) are offering special cut-price holiday rates at Christmas and the New Year. Each room, accommodating up to two adults and two children, costs £34.50 per night, excluding meals.

There will be more tips next week.



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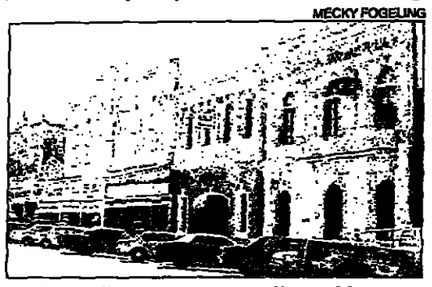
AUSTRALIA: A cruise on the highway through sandy scrublands and a dive to spectacular coral

A thousand miles on the open road

MY WIFE and I, two late fortysomethings, are in Kalgoorlie as part of a year out to see more of Australia than the familiar Sydney-Barrier Reef-Ayers Rock package. We've bought a second-hand four-wheel-drive Toyota and caravan, but our route from Perth to Adelaide, known as crossing the Nullarbor, can be done leisurely in a week in a hired car or campervan.

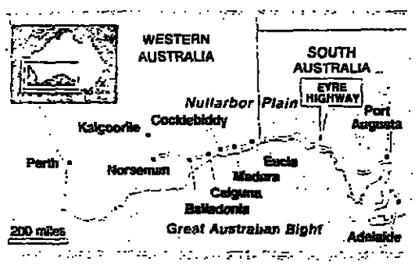
It's a trip most Australians try to avoid. Several motorists claim to have seen UFOs, and truckdrivers have hallucinated at night. The Eyre Highway is widely seen as too far, too flat, too hot and, above all, too boring.

Yet it's an appealing "open road" adventure, recalling an era when long distance driving was more expedition than excursion. It follows much of the route pioneered by the explorer John Eyre in 1841 and reveals country and characters you don't find in the travel brochures.



MECKY FOGELING

Kalgoorlie, Western Australian gold town



On the road between Norseman and Balladonia, roughly the distance between London and Birmingham, we see only 30 other vehicles. The road slices through a forest of towering pink-and-silver gum trees leaving space only for a ribbon of vivid blue sky. After 50 miles the trees surrender to reveal an enormous sky and a far-distant horizon.

Balladonia, the first of 15 roadhouses as you head east, merits a significant dot on the map for a population of nine. It is a combined truckstop, bar, restaurant, motel and caravan park, the only buildings for 100 miles and not a place where you expect to be greeted by a flamboyant hostess who appears more in tune with Broadway than the Bush. Brenda Greening, who left Nottingham in 1974, has run the Balladonia Roadhouse for the past five years. Wearing a black and white designer leisure suit and stylish white shoes, she is sitting on a bar stool mingling with a few truckdrivers and a shearer who has travelled from a farm 130 miles away for a drink. Their shorts, cutaway singlets and working boots suggest that they don't give a XXXX for Dior.

The road to Caiguna is one of the longest straight stretches in the world: it lasts for almost 100 miles.

The vast emptiness of the Australian interior is dramatically emphasised from the hilltop at Madura, where the highway dips onto a coastal plain. A pale green scrubland stretches to the horizon and beyond, an eerie wilderness broken only by a few spindly eucalyptus leaning at eccentric angles like parachutes waiting to be released from their load.

The white sand dunes of Eucla appear on the horizon like marzipan mountains. Behind them lies a deserted beach which merges into a pale mist of heat and spray somewhere towards the horizon. Shifting sands cover all but the chimney of an old telegraph station, and scores of cormorants use an abandoned jetty as a grandstand to watch the ocean. Eucla, population 50, is paradise, apart from the March flies that buzz into life in midsummer. These green-bodied monsters attack in squadrons, delivering a sharp sting which has no after-effects, although it is unpleasant enough to deter any lingering.

Across the border in South Australia, the highway runs on a clifftop following the Southern Ocean. Most drivers, eager to press on, ignore the gravel tracks that lead to the edge and miss the striking coastline of the Great Australian Bight. The jagged brown and white cliffs extending for 500 miles resemble enormous teeth marks, as if millions of years ago something actually bit huge chunks out of the state.

There are no surprises crossing the Nullarbor itself. For 20 miles, the highway runs across the southern tip of the notorious treeless plain — a grey-green flat scrubland where any bush more than 2ft high could be accused of showing off or suspected of having its own secret water supply. It's taken the Nullarbor millions of years to produce this sparse vegetation. What's here is probably the best it's going to get.

In summer the tail end of the highway turns into a wheat field 100 miles long, until the foothills of the Flinders Ranges and Port Augusta, South Australia's crossroads town. North to Darwin, east to Sydney, South to Adelaide, a long distance traveller's dormitory, a one-night-only place at the end of the only metalled road across the bottom half of Australia, the 1,000-mile Eyre Highway.

JOHN MCLEOD

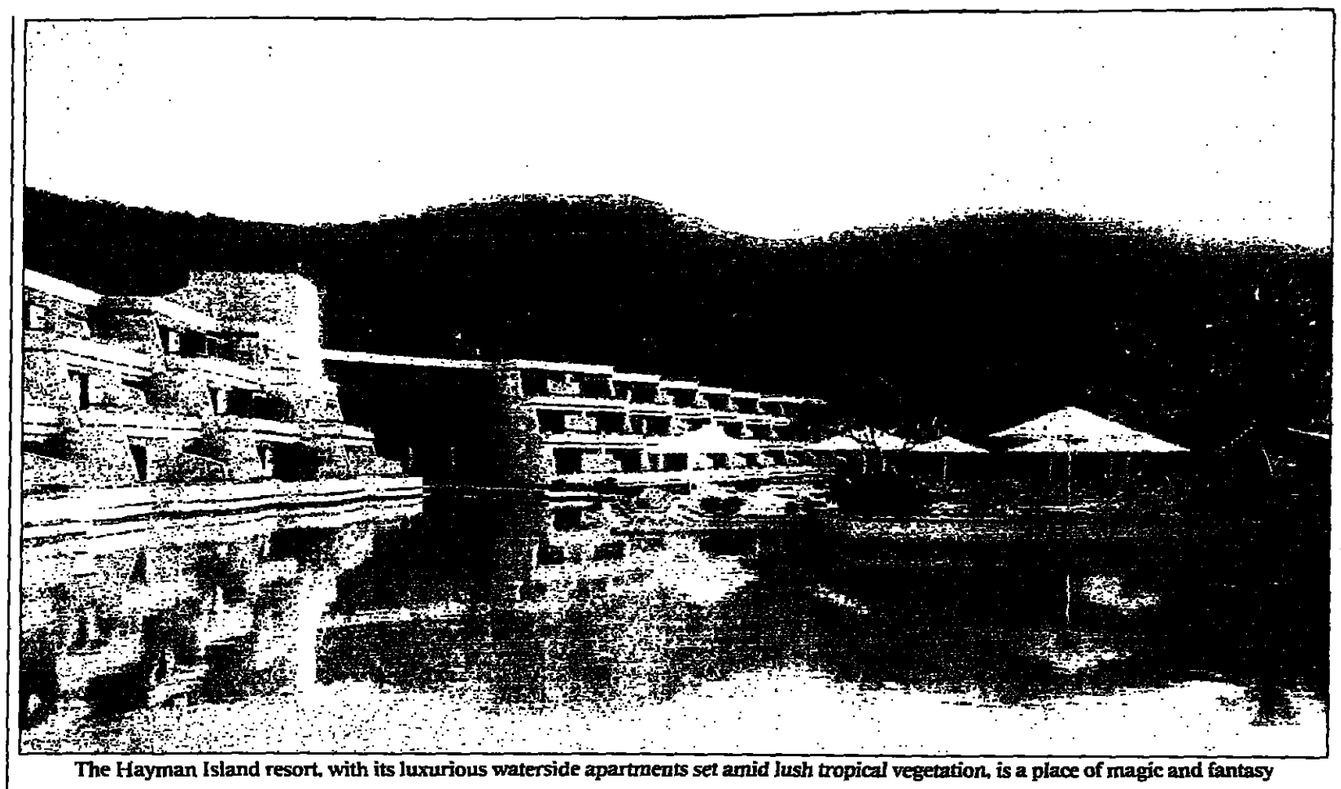
Getting there

☐ Campervan hire: Koala Rentals, Perth 00619 277 1000; Adelaide 00618 234 1462. Two-berth Toyota high-top from $95 (£47) to $135 a day, depending on season (no extra charge for one-way Perth to Adelaide rental). Budget Campervan Rentals, Perth 00619 479 1919; Adelaide 00618 234 4979. Four-berth Holden Rodeo from $105 to $120 a day ($400 extra charge for one-way).

☐ A motel double room costs from $50-$60, a powered site for a campervan $16-$20.

☐ The Royal Automobile Club of Australia produces a detailed Eyre Highway map. Price $3 available from RAC Touring, Perth (00619 421 4488)

☐ Rainbow World of Choice (01904 628080) can arrange a trip from the UK, including flights and campervan hire, from £1,090.



The Hayman Island resort, with its luxurious waterside apartments set amid lush tropical vegetation, is a place of magic and fantasy

Stirred on 007 island

James Bond would immediately recognise Hayman Island. It's the sort of luxurious tropical playground where he always ended up in the 007 films after being pursued by villains trying to throw him into lagoons stuffed with piranhas.

Hayman has lush, tropical vegetation and white sands; the same hint of shark in the turquoise seas; that almost unreal air of sumptuous hi-tech luxury and multimillion-dollar art collections amid the coral reefs; the flashy powerboats and seaplanes growling into the blue marina; the helicopters clattering overhead; the same cast of beefy young "gardeners" patrolling the grounds in their sinister, reflecting sunglasses.

There's even a private dining room with a 23-carat gold-leaf ceiling and a 16th-century chandelier. And when I flew in from the mainland my boarding card was numbered 007.

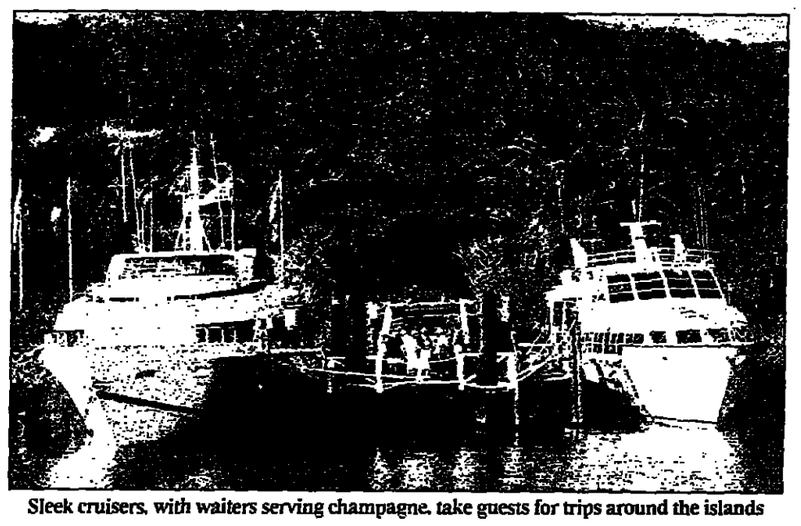
Bond, of course, would have been pursued all over the island by murderous heavies, poisonous snakes, man-eating spiders and girls. I did see a couple of snakes when I took a five-mile hike around the island, but they seemed lazy and harmless. I was pursued by nothing more dangerous than a pretty waitress with a smile as large as the vodka.

The resort is a place of magic and fantasy, and since it was renovated in 1987 at a cost of £150 million it has regularly been voted Australia's leading resort, and one of the world's top five.

Twenty miles off the coast of Queensland, Hayman is one of the 74 Whitsunday Islands scattered along the Great Barrier Reef, most of them uninhabited. Only three miles long by one mile wide, it has one 820ft hill, called Cook's Lookout after Captain James Cook, who sailed past on Whit Sunday in 1770.

The ambience is of unashamed luxury. The treatment starts as you step off the plane at the larger Hamilton Island and board the cruiser *Sun Goddess* for the 50-minute voyage to Hayman. I was greeted with champagne, and the dolphins skipped beside the boat to say hello.

Staff outnumber guests at the resort; the 203 rooms and 11 penthouse suites are vast, with marble floors and glorious views across the Coral Sea. The public rooms have rich carpets, antiques, paintings, sculptures and tapestries, and are linked by shady walks past waterfalls, fountains and ponds with gliding swans and green-headed ducks. The ferny gardens, splashed with hibiscus and bougainvillea, resound to the cries of yellow cockatoos and laughing kookaburras.



Sleek cruisers, with waiters serving champagne, take guests for trips around the islands



There are six restaurants — French, Italian and oriental among them — and a nightclub, health centre, shopping arcades, tennis and squash courts, and a library. It also has three swimming pools, one a vast, linked waterway seven times the size of an Olympic pool.

You can enjoy every watersport, and chase wild goats through the bush, as I did, disturbing gaudy parrots, blue kingfishers and rainbow lorikeets, and sending up clouds of huge Blue Tiger butterflies. Even the temperature is perfect: an average 88F in summer (November-April) and 77F in winter, with cool island breezes.

There are more pleasures. I will never forget the two-hour sunset cruise aboard the yacht *Serenade* (£35 each), when we sat in silence amid a string of lonely islands and sipped champagne as we watched the sun go down across the purple silhouette of Queensland.

Or the day we took an old De Havilland seaplane (£110 each) across the glittering sea to the Great Barrier Reef, where we snorkelled among the purple, red and yellow coral, underwater canyons and flirted with multicoloured fish — some silver-blue, some black and red, some blue with yellow tails.

On another day, we flew to Whitsunday Island (£75 each) and parked the seaplane among the stingrays basking in the shallows of Whitehaven Beach, the best beach I have ever seen. We swam, picnicked on seafood and chilled white wine and walked for miles on the deserted beach. I would not have been surprised to find a footprint belonging to a man called Friday.

Hayman and its sister islands are made for fantasy and romance. Newspapers in the 1930s reported several sightings off Hayman Island of a Loch Ness-type sea monster, an alarmingly revolting creature with small eyes, "a snake-like head . . . like a large turtle", and a "huge armoured" body. Bond would probably recognise that, too. It sounds just like Oddjob.

GRAHAM LORD

Getting there

☐ Graham Lord flew to Hayman Island via Hong Kong and Sydney as a guest of Virgin Atlantic, Ansett Australia Airlines and Austravel (50 Conduit Street, London W1R 9FB (0171-838 1011). B&B on Hayman costs from £185 a room a night for one or two people to £1,400 a night for the French Provincial penthouse. Austravel offers a low-season seven-night Hayman package from £657 a person including flights and a stopover.

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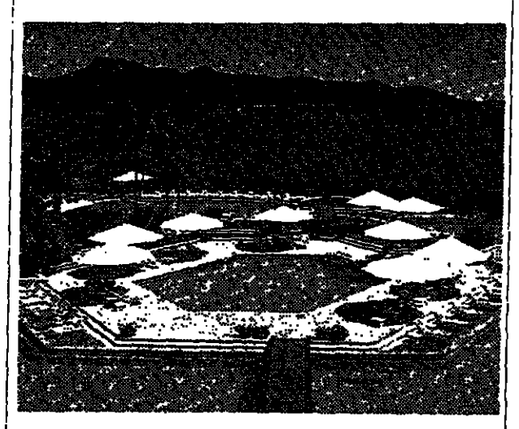
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ECUADOR: Sloths hang above tributaries of the Amazon and guides call shy alligators with a belch

Sailing up the Aguarico in a wobbly canoe



JEREMY SEAL



Riverside beauty: ibises



The rainforest, left, rewards the traveller with wonderful sights and sounds. Even in the Ecuadorean jungle, visitors may have to queue before they get the chance to travel upriver in tiny boats

Although it was a pioneering Ecuadorean, Francisco de Orellana, who was the first person known to have travelled the entire length of the Amazon River in 1541, Ecuador has ended up with just 2 per cent of the Amazon Basin — and not an inch of the great river proper. As our party boarded the bus at Lago Agrio, boom capital of Ecuador's rainforest eastern region, the Oriente, these statistics fed misgivings about our Amazon adventure. "Just how far can you venture into 2 per cent?" muttered a wannabe American explorer. "And how am I supposed to tell the folks back home that I only made it to a tributary of the Amazon, not the river itself?"

"Not even that," Carlos, our guide, corrected him. "The Aguarico River is a tributary of a tributary of the Amazon. But don't worry. We do tributaries differently here."

So they do. The moment our bus emerged from the trees alongside the rickety landing stage at Chiritza on the Aguarico, we were in the Amazon and even there, 400 miles from the great river, the *café au lait* expanse swirling past steaming backdrops of foliage knocked the Thames at Mortlake into a panama hat.

From Chiritza, the only way onwards was by boat. For four hours, twin outboards swept us downstream. Intermittent thatched settlements soon gave way to an unbroken tangle of trees blanketing the river banks. Scarlet macaws launched themselves from the branches. We slowed to watch turtles dozing on beached logs. As a final bend in the river revealed our camp at Zancudo, the group breathed a collective sigh of relief and shifted sore buttocks. Two per cent would do just fine.

Ecuador's jungle tourism, concentrated mostly along the Napo River to the south, is minimal along the Aguarico. The Orellana — a riverboat hotel or "flotel" — and a few small-scale, low-impact thatched camps provide an ideal series of bases from which to explore the river and the surrounding rainforest of the 600,000-hectare Cuyabeno Reserve. The riverbanks are also home to scattered settlements of Siecoya and Cofan people, and the odd military outpost such as the one alongside our camp at Zancudo.

No sooner had we settled into our camp — a simple but well-maintained collection of wooden sleeping cabins complete with linen and mosquito nets, a shower block and dining room — than we headed for early beds, our energy sapped by the heat.



At first light, Carlos led us into the rainforest, a luxuriance of orchids, palms, ferns, and huge kapok trees with rocket-fin shaped buttresses. Peacock-blue butterflies as big as saucers glided past. Toucans were perched in the branches, along with tamarin and squirrel monkeys.

"Look at the tree roots," said Carlos. "If they cut down all this diversity, more than 250 species of trees in a single hectare, they cut it down forever." Oil and logging interests have long had designs on the area.

Our jungle walk also yielded tracks of rarely seen ocelots and of tapirs, a small, horse-cum-elephant creation straight out of Lewis Carroll. And then there was the insanely colourful array of birds — 600 species inhabit the area — as well as howler monkeys as we headed further downstream in motorised canoes.

We sailed into Lagarto Cocha to find Ecuadorean and Peruvian military posts glaring at each other across the river. We followed a tributary of a tributary of the Amazon, where sloths inched their way through the branches above while unearthly river dolphins, pink like salmon, broke the surface.

As we crossed the lake to the remote Imuya Lodge, apprehension flickered across our boatman's features. Carlos commented: "The 'islands' of vegetation that you see around you actually float. Locals regard the lake as haunted."

After supper, when we took the canoes out, floating islands were the least of our concern; we were in search of caimans. Carlos called for the alligators with a stifled belch, mimicking the cries of caimans in trouble. When a ten-foot monster appeared a few feet away, I wondered whether sitting in a wobbly canoe at night was a good idea. "No problem," whispered Carlos. "They are very shy." "But are they hungry?" came a voice from the darkness.

The great lesson of the rainforest — that it is essentially a benign and beautiful place rather than the infested swamp of popular imagination — impressed itself upon us. As we returned upriver, Carlos pointed out a pile of discarded steel pipes near Zancudo. Last year, local people, tour operators and even the military had joined forces to stop an oil company sinking a well here. "Tourism not only provides local people with work," explained Carlos. "It has also given them free access to our company doctor, helped them to pay for a teacher and supplied them with solar panels and outboards."

For the time being, sustainable tourism is keeping the oilmen and loggers at bay.

JEREMY SEAL

Getting there

☐ Jeremy Seal was a guest of Journey Latin America (0181-747 8315) and Avianca Airlines (0171-437 3664).

☐ *Journey Latin American* offer Ecuadorean Amazon packages, including the six-day, full-board Aguarico tour, from £610.

☐ Flotel Orellana packages start at £466 a person for four days. Prices exclude flights from the UK, from £503 return.

☐ Flight-inclusive packages can include five days on the Aguarico as part of a wider Ecuadorean tour alongside trips to the Andes and the Galapagos islands, starting at £2,375 for 24 days.

☐ The Ecuadorean Amazon can be visited all year round. September to December are drier. June to August are wetter, but be ready for rain any time.

☐ Guide book: ***Ecuador and The Galapagos Islands*** (Lonely Planet, £10.95).

NEXT WEEK: PASSPORT TO ISRAEL

As a spiritual focus of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Israel is becoming a hub for Middle East travel. A 20-page supplement features this extraordinary country's natural, historic and cultural attractions, from the beaches of Mediterranean to the Dead and Red Seas. In *The Times* next Thursday.

Highlights of Syria

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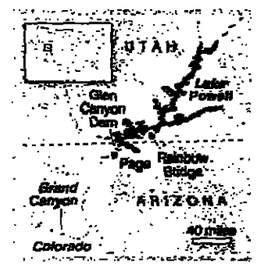
AMERICA: **Martin Fletcher** explores by boat the sandstone islands and dramatic canyons of Lake Powell

Sheer heaven at a lake made by man



R&M

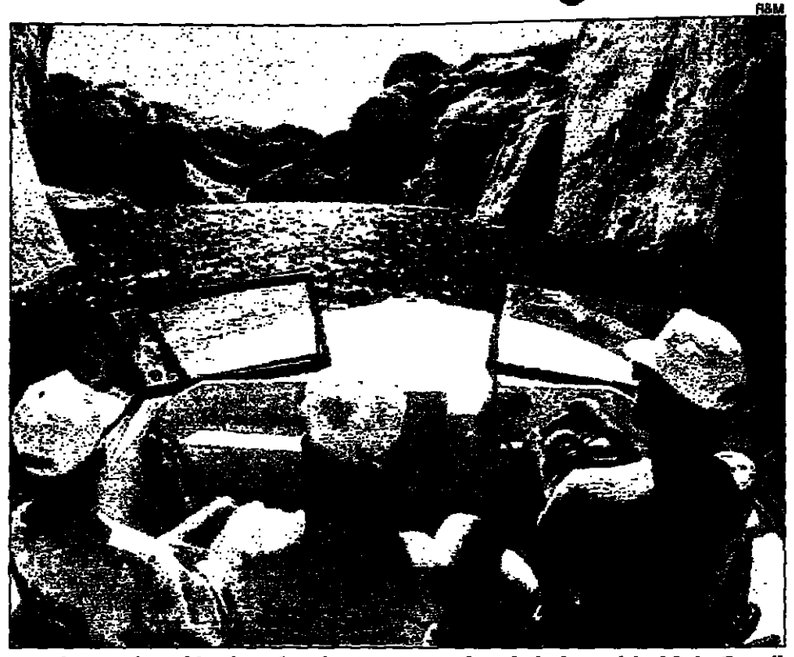
The Colorado River, which took 17 years to back up from the dam and form Lake Powell



In 1858 a US Army expedition ventured into the land of scorching desert and barren mountains where the Colorado River has gouged its way across the Utah-Arizona border. "Ours has been the first, and will probably be the last, party ... to visit this profitless locality," wrote Lieutenant Joseph Ives, a member of the expedition. "It seems intended by nature that the Colorado River, along the greater portion of its lovely and majestic way, shall forever be unvisited and undisturbed."

Lieutenant Ives was spectacularly wrong. Man thwarted nature's plans. In 1963 the last of nearly five million cubic yards of concrete was poured, and the Glen Canyon Dam completed. Over the next 17 years, the waters of the Colorado River backed up 186 miles to form Lake Powell, America's second largest man-made lake, and one of the world's most sublime and scenic year-round playgrounds.

Here, sheer rock walls soar hundreds of vertical feet from the lake's glass-smooth surface. There, low islands of warm red sandstone slip gently into the deep blue waters. From what was once the Colorado's winding river-course, branch watery side-canyons too numerous to count, some opening unexpectedly into great echoing amphitheatres of sculpted stone, while others taper into twisting corridors so narrow that only the smallest boats can penetrate.



R&M

Americans enjoy taking luxurious boats out on to the relatively unvisited Lake Powell

Lieutenant Ives was right about one thing. Though scarcely a half-day's drive from such tourist honeypots as Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon and the Bryce and Zion national parks, Lake Powell does remain relatively unvisited and undisturbed. It lies like a flooded Grand Canyon in the midst of a million acres of government-designated wilderness, and is virtually inaccessible by road.

It boasts 1,960 miles of labyrinthine shoreline, more than America's Pacific coast. The only way to explore it is by boat over several days, and during six years in America I have seldom enjoyed a more perfect escape.

You hire the boat from Page, a small town at the lake's southernmost tip, originally built for the dam's construction workers. The affluent take houseboats complete with microwaves, barbecues and roof-mounted waterslides. The five of us took a modest 19ft powerboat into which we piled our camping gear one morning and sped off into an aquatic wild west.

We spent the next few sun-drenched days alternately bouncing our way across expanses of azure water or gently nosing into tranquil canyons bearing such exotic names as Cascade, Dungeon or Lost Eden.

In one, the aptly named Forbidding Canyon, the water is spanned by the world's largest natural arch, the 290ft-high Rainbow Bridge, which the Navajo Indians call "*Nonnezoshi*" — the "rainbow turned to stone" — and still consider sacred.

We dived endlessly into the deep, warm, pristine waters. We picnicked on hot, flat rocks with lizards the only other life in sight. We towed our exhilarated children in our wake on an inflated tube. We fished for the abundant trout and bass and catfish, searched for petroglyphs on the rock faces and hiked along ancient Indian trails leading up into the desert.

In the evenings, drowsy from so much fresh air, we watched the sinking sun set the cliffs and buttes aglow, built a fire to cook on, then camped alone on sandy beaches beneath a brilliant galaxy of stars and listened to distant coyotes howling in the night.

Lake Powell enjoys sunshine for 78 per cent of the year, and between March and May the houseboat renters are guaranteed an extra day for every day that is not sunny, but you can occasionally get caught out. On our final afternoon, as we drifted slowly homewards, the horizon suddenly turned ink black, lightning rent the sky and banks of rain obscured the mighty Navajo mountain.

As this dramatic storm swept across the lake in all its elemental fury, we and a score of other small craft raced it back to Page, beating it by a whisker.

Such storms are the price of visiting in August, known locally as the monsoon season. Lake Powell never gets really cold, however. Spring and autumn are said to be particularly beautiful, and you can even take out boats at Christmas.

A few warnings. Reach Page the night before, check into the lakeside Wahweap Lodge, and complete all the paperwork for your boat that night because the queues can be lengthy in the morning. Buy your provisions before you leave because the lake's five scattered marinas stock only essentials. Be prepared to spend a lot on petrol — our boat consumed $60 worth a day, and the bigger houseboats can do as little as one mile to the gallon.

Finally, this being America, the motor rules supreme and there is hardly a sailing boat in sight. Indeed, the grander houseboats process up the lake towing a waterski boat, and often a couple of jetskis behind that.

Getting there

☐ Page is roughly 280 miles north of Phoenix, Arizona, and about the same distance eastwards from Las Vegas.

☐ Boats and rooms at Wahweap Lodge can be reserved through Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas, PO Box 56909, Phoenix, Arizona 85079 (001 602 278 8888; fax 001 602 331 5258).

☐ During the summer, houseboats begin at $1,241 (£806) a week (excluding fuel and tax) and rise to $3,495 for the most expensive, which sleep ten. During the winter, prices range from $745 to $2,079. Spring and autumn prices are somewhere in between, and three or four-day rentals are also possible.

☐ A 19 ft powerboat costs $1,125 a week during peak season, falling to $675 in the winter. Jetskis, waterskis and inflated tubes can also be rented. Wahweap Lodge, located on the lake six miles outside Page, costs approximately $120 a night for a double room.

A Special Announcement

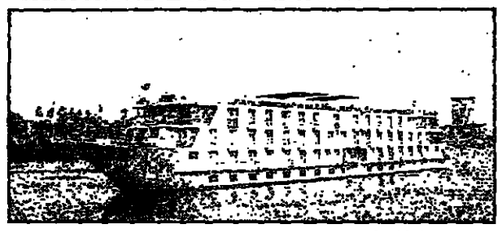
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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

CAPARISON
(b) Commonly (well not exactly commonly) used these days in the sense of a rather grand form of dress, or to dress someone up to the nines in their best soup-and-fish. Originally it just meant the covering for a horse. "You are indeed magnificently caparisoned tonight, Jane."

REBOANT
(c) Reverberating very loudly, from the Latin *reboo* I make the welkin resonate and re-echo. "Children, pay attention please. Remember that this is an ancient and holy chapel of remembrance we are going into. When we get inside, would you all please lower your voices to the reboant level?"

ASPIRATOR
(c) Medical instrument for drawing pus from abscesses. "I think it would be a nice gesture, dear, if we gave James an aspirator for Christmas."

MAMMIFEROUS
(c) With breasts. All mammals, male or female, but, needless to say, most commonly applied in relation to the latter. As your taxi passes the YWCA, "Excuse me, Mama, but I think I have spotted some fine specimens of the mammifera." And seizing your butterfly net, you leap out, and send the taxi on with Mother.

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SKIING: Norway's uncrowded slopes and gentle runs are perfect for families

Unhip, but perfectly cool

There is no worse time to look for a winter holiday than at Christmas. There is no resort anywhere in the Alps or North America not crammed to the rafters — none with guaranteed snowscapes at village level, and none where entire families can safely scour the slopes together.

There is one place, however, where the seasonal signs of green firs, Yuletide fires and rosy reindeers are unmarred by excessive crowds, and where the pistes are gentle enough for toddlers and grandparents to toboggan and ski together without fear of predatory swoops by boy racers: Norway.

It is exactly Norway's lack of appeal to the red-piste ravers, the glühwein gulpers and the budget groupies that makes its snow-sure, slow and traditional Nordic resorts ideal for a family escape. Norway is for giving the liver a rest and the legs a workout with cross-country skiing.

The arguments against are what keep most downhill skiers away. There are no vast interconnected ski arenas to compare with the Trois Vallées in France. There are no Farm Club discos to entice the Fergies. A small glass of beer at £3, a bottle of vin ordinaire at £18, are arguments enough for abstinence.

There are advantages, however: a six-day ski pass in Norway's most expensive resort, Hemsedal, costs £87, compared with £138 in Courchevel and £170 in Verbier. Christmas week at Norway's leading mountain hotel, the Dr Holmes in Geilo, costs £599, with half board and flights, from Crystal. A similar hotel in Val d'Isère for the same week costs more than £900 with Crystal.

Norwegian skiing is not high. The tops of Norwegian resorts are often below the level of the bottoms of French resorts. But, thanks to northern latitudes, the snow is of excellent quality, ample and early. Last winter, when the Alps were denuded until January, Norway was buried in snow. Skiing begins in mid-November and ends in May.

Despite the Winter Olympic runs in Lillehammer and a number of World Cup courses, Norway's challenge lies not in its black downhill pistes but in the classic Nordic disciplines of telemark and cross country. The telemark style was invented by Sondre Norheim, who astounded the world back in the 1860s with his flying leaps ending in the bended knee telemark turn.

Today, "freeheel" skiing, so called because the heel is not held down in the binding on telemark skis, is an avid cult in the Alps and America. Still, nobody does it better than the Norwegians, as they have demonstrated repeatedly in world championship events. And there is nowhere better to learn, especially as the standard of English in Norway, not to mention the genuinely welcoming attitude of instructors, is far superior to France or Italy.

Cross-country trails, free of charge, are everywhere. Headwater, a holiday firm specialising in cross-country skiing, recommends the three villages of Venabu, Sjusjoen and Nesbyen, which among them have more than 600 km of cross-country skiing in stunning terrain. Waymark, an even more adventurous Nordic specialist, offers courses in telemark skiing and a series of overland tours, staying in mountain huts.

Norway's best-known resort, Lillehammer, is not rated highly as a winter-holiday destination by British tour operators, despite its Olympic cachet. This is mainly because its skiing and self-catering flats are spread out over an intolerably inconvenient distance by Norwegian standards. A car is usually required.

Norwegians like lovely jumpers, reindeer rides, midnight sleighs and trains. But they don't like cars and they have banned snowmobiles. Drinking, as everyone knows, occurs. But eating really is encouraged. Breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets groan with meats, fish and puddings such as sour cream waffles with gooseberry jam. Nobody goes hungry on half-board.

In any Norwegian resort queues, even at Christmas, are unheard of. Children, however, are conspicuous by their presence. Under-sevens always ski free, and are even given free helmets, which they must by law wear at all times on the pistes. Parents who have wondered just what it is that the Swiss do with their kids — as they certainly don't seem to go in for crèches — will find that playrooms and child-minding facilities are ubiquitous by comparison in Norway.

No one should go to Norway without seeing the fiords. Geilo (pronounced yea-low) is right on the banks of one. Geilo is the heart of what the Norwegians call "Winterland", and best for beginners and families looking for a high standard of accommodation.

Hemsedal, just north of Geilo, is the biggest and best resort for downhill, or alpine-style skiing and a popular snowboarding centre. Hemsedal has fairly challenging off-piste tree skiing too, and is the Norwegian resort which best approximates to the kind of good, groomed piste skiing that most British intermediates adore.

Hemsedal and Geilo are along the old-fashioned Flam Railway tour, which takes in Europe's longest fiord, Sognefjord (200 km), and negotiates a vertical drop of 2,838 ft by means of spiral tunnels inside the mountains. Other diversions, in all Norwegian resorts, include driving husky-dog sledges and learning how to build igloos.

Voss, also alongside a fiord, and about an hour and a half from Bergen airport, is considered a bargain, and attracts what passes for the young and rowdy set in Norway. Although children under seven still ski for free, there are no special children's classes in the ski school.

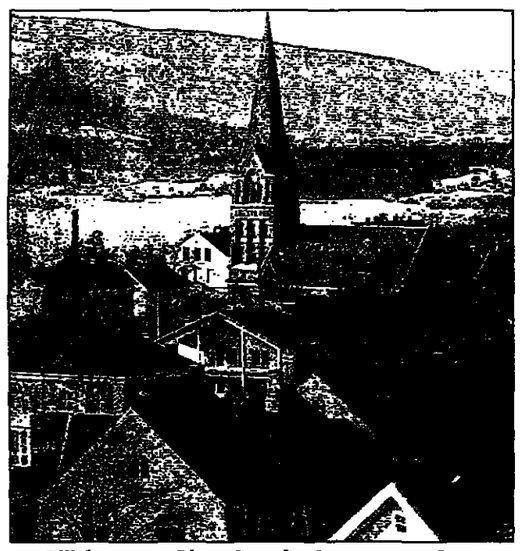
If it seems like a long way to go to get away from the crowds and back to an earlier age of wood and wool, note that Crystal has introduced direct UK flights to Dagali airport in southern Norway, cutting down transfer times to Hemsedal to 90 minutes, (three and a half hours from Oslo) and to Geilo now only 30 minutes instead of three and a half hours.

DOUG SAGER

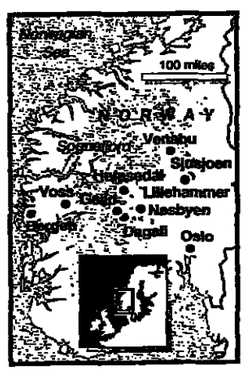
ALL SPORT



Despite the runs at Lillehammer, above, Norway's challenges lie in its telemark and cross-country disciplines



Lillehammer: Olympic cachet but too spread out



Fact file

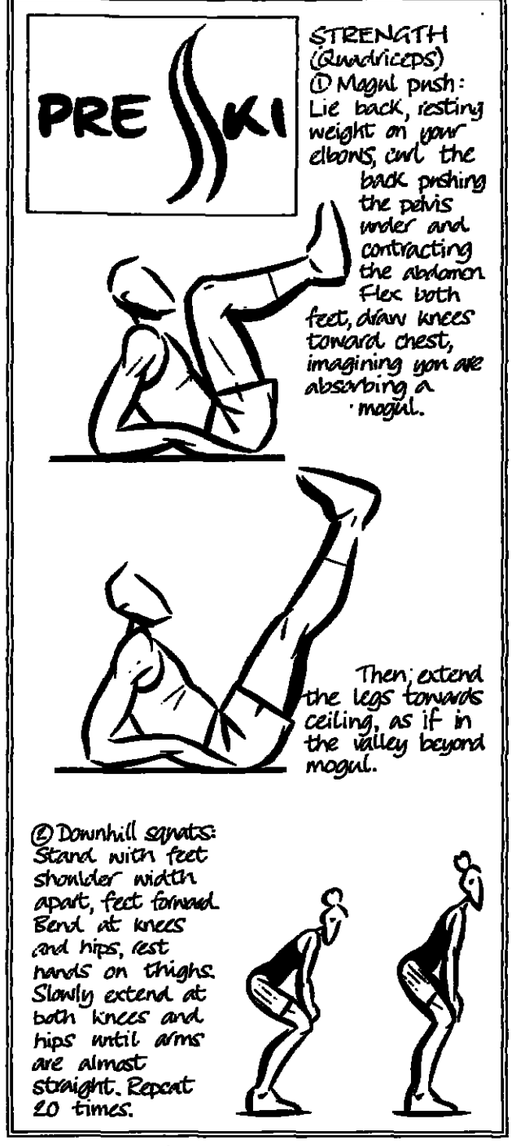
☐ Crystal (0181-399 5144) is unique among mainstream operators in offering a wide range of hotel, flat and chalet accommodation in Voss, Geilo and Hemsedal. Hemsedal also has the first British-run chalet in Norway. Half-board hotel accommodation for seven nights with flights ranges from £349 to £649.

☐ Headwater (01606 48699) is a cross-country specialist with experienced guides and package offers at one hotel only in three out-of-the-way Norwegian Nordic skiing centres. Prices with flights and full board from £618 to £786

☐ Waymark (01753 516477) offers the most comprehensive choice of non-traditional skiing holidays, with cross-country skiing in Finland, Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy and Spain as well as 11 resorts in Norway. Accommodation runs from "unsophisticated" to log cabins and high standard hotels. Telemark and cross-country lessons as well as overland tours around Troll mountain and the Jotunheim summits are included in Waymark's programme. Prices for seven nights full board and flights range from £460 to £745.

☐ The Norwegian Tourist Office has a ski hot line (0171-321 0666) with information on snow conditions, resorts and tour operators.

JANE SPENCER



Exercises extracted from *Skilegs* by Tessa Coker, from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AF, £2.50 inc p&p. *The Times* cannot be held responsible for any injuries resulting from or sustained while carrying out the exercises and movements described above.

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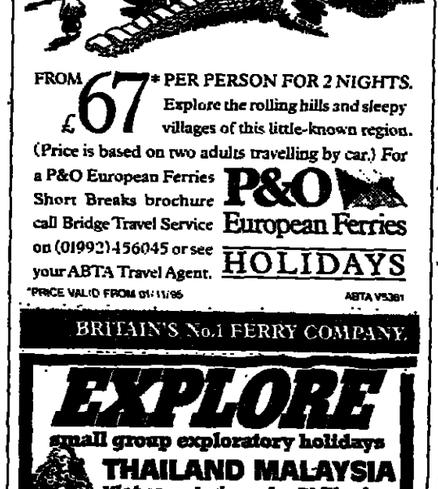
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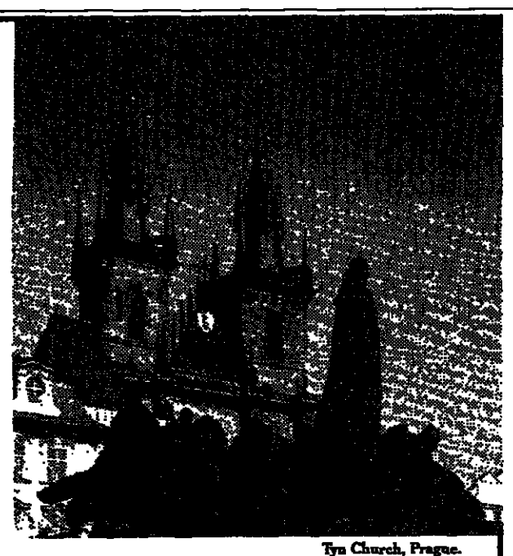
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A DRASTIC last resort, there are no single, attractive, amusing, intelligent, non smoking 35-40 year old professional men left in the world. Please prove me wrong. I need to meet my counterpart. London area. Photo essential. Reply to Box 1255.

ALLURING babe, tall, 33, kind and caring, with one child, WLTM tall, n/s, intelligent, (possibly toy boy), for friendship, romance and maybe more. Football skills an advantage ALA Newmarket Box 1337

THE TIMES cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be.

We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

ARE you kind and sincere, yet sophisticated and well travelled: do you have wit but also compassion and do you have a financially comfortable lifestyle and still appreciate the simple things in life? If you are also a gentleman in his 60s, then I a fair slim and attractive, widely travelled lady with varied interests, would very much like to hear from you. Photograph appreciated. Box No 1058.

ARE YOU tactile intelligent solvent adventurous and n/s with GSOH around late 40's? If so we are probably compatible are you also London/BBO based? Perfect! Write soon with phone no so we can pursue the compatibility. Reply Box No 1412

ARE you a 6'3, healthy, wealthy normal guy 40-56? Sagittarian Sue needs you, tall, blonde, elegant, long legs for tennis. Honesty, laughter and warmth important. Hants/Dorset. Please Reply to Box No 1440.

ARE you over 50? Gentlemen in the Midlands looking for stylish and sophisticated ladies Elite Introductions' special offer for 14 days, we have over 300 ladies waiting to meet you, call for free details 0121 386 2254.

ARE YOU an Arts Grad or sim.? I'm attract. v. warm, prof. 48, slim, curvy, brunette, 5'6, tactile. Lit, theatre, vis. arts, opera, fun. Skg. slim n/s, photo. N London/ SW Herts. Box 1155

ATTRACTIVE sincere and bubbly ladie accountant, mid 40s, single with everything to offer to the right partner who lives in the West Midlands and wants to share everything. Please, strong personality with warm romantic and tactile side. This is genuine, please send letter and photo urgently. Box No 1485.

ATTRACTIVE ex public school lady, n/s, seeks attractive, affluent, unattached, professional gentleman 50/58 for shared enjoyment of countryside, travel and togetherness. South Sheffield. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1486

ATTRACTIVE friendly, warm, caring, honest, educated female, 5'6, late 20s, well travelled, interested in arts, reading, going to cinema, travelling, tennis. Chelsea area. Please Reply to Box No 1368.

ATTRACTIVE single 38 n/s professional seeks similar sincere male for committed relationship. London SE. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 1328.

A ZEST for life! Attractive, slim, refined professional young 40's looking for a romantic, fun and longlasting relationship. Loves wining & Dining, sailing, Arts, travel etc. Currently studying archaeology. London Based. Photo and Phone Number please to Box No 1176

BEAUTIFUL music, colour, smells, light, food/wine. I want to share romance, tenderness. I am a slim brunette with big eyes and big smile, seeking n/s, GSOH, great fun, genuine 6ft ish man 48+. Box No 1293.

BLONDE blue eyed, fantasy ends there! Avid rugby fan, prof female (early 30s) romantic, wicked SOH, WLTM prof intelligent, caring man (30-48) to share those dark winter evenings. Please write with photo to Box No 1286.

BRISTOL based, attractive, articulate, 50-something widow with warm loveable personality and many varied interests seeks special male friend who is professional, fit, solvent and sociable. Photo plse Box 1260

BRISTOL · Caroline Crowther Exclusive introductions in the West Country. 0117 9736877.

CAMBS slim attractive woman 51 seeks caring, solvent chap for permanent relationship. Photo please. Box No 1535.

CARING, independent, professional lady 41, GSOH, loves people watching, seeks solvent Newcastle/N.E male. Reply guaranteed. Reply to Box 1463.

CASCADE........Bristol
CASCADE........Cardiff
CASCADE........Bath
CASCADE........Swansea
CASCADE........Gloucestershire
CASCADE........Taunton
CASCADE........Pembrokeshire
CASCADE........Worcestershire
civilised Social Groups for the unattached aged 30'ish to 50'ish contact Howard or Jan 01495 78 53 09 noon to 7pm any day. Fax 01495 759046.

CHARACTER particularly important! Golf beginner, 41, 5'3, slim, busy, n/s, independent. Like travelling, sports, theatre, interesting people and working. If you are genuine and want to share some of the above pls write. East Anglia Box 1508

CHARISMATIC lady with physical & mental panache WLTM similar successful unencumbered confident articulate male living London/South East 38-50 years. Please reply with phone number to Box No 1383.

CHESHIRE Caring, reasonably attractive professional female (43), would like to hear from a considerate, nice man. Varied interests, at present autumn walks, coastal forays, atmospheric pubs and good restaurants. Reply to Box No 1117.

CHRISTMAS fairy requires tree. Forester must be 6ft+ (no Santas elves please!), comfortable, GSOH, for elegant Cotswold lady 40, uncomplicated, lovable. Location unimportant. Bahamas would be nice. ALA, photo appreciated. Box 1336.

COMING to Paris? Would you like to meet attractive, intelligent, bilingual Parisian late 40s with excellent background? Jewish, (non practising). Willing to settle in UK, looking for serious relationship. Box 1219.

COTSWOLDS professional happy lady young 60, loves travel, sports, theatre, wining/dining, seeks kind sincere educated gentleman with similar interests and GSOH to enjoy life again. Reply 1386

COUNTRY loving male sought by cheerful, tall, blondish lady (33) based Sussex. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 1261.

CREATIVE Academic Designer, M(RCA), Widowed, 52, happy extrovert personality. Articulate & vivacious. Tall, classically fashionable, West Midlands based. Comfortably solvent. Kaleidoscopic interests with inquiring, original & passionate mind. Love of food essential - the growing - the gathering - the cooking - the supping at home & abroad. Share my kitchen & more. Write with rec photo Bx 1164

SENSUOUS, vivacious, loyal beauty seeks millionaire and wedding bells! Reply Box 1504

DARK haired attractive caring lady divorced in her 40s (Sussex based) looking for a meaningful relationship. Box 1356.

DELICIOUS desirable damsel (40s) desires dashing, debonaire defender for dalliance, discovery and devotion. Box No 1317.

DERB./Yorks. 2 attractive, prof ladies, 35, seek 2 prof gentlemen, 30-45, for outings, dates, dinner etc. Photos please. Please Reply to Box No 1318.

EDUCATED elegant, intelligent lady - Irish decent, based Yorkshire, middle 50s, varied interests: cinema, theatre, travel, dining in/out, gardening, reading. Independent, solvent. Would like to meet gentleman of character, n/s, with GSOH for friendship, romance, whatever 58-70. Photo. Box 1320.

EFFERVESCENT passionate, vivacious, affectionate, fun loving female, 35yrs. Tall, very attractive with a good figure. Seeks tall handsome romantic male with good sense of humour for lasting relationship. Please send photo London/Surrey Bx 1189

ELEGANT romantic and deeply caring widow needs a public school widower between 56-66. I have no children, no pets (just you!). I love my home, music, theatre, countryside and the sea. Photo and telephone number please. All letters answered. Please Reply to Box No 1275.

ENGAGING good looking, prof, dark eyes, slim, n/s, 30s woman seeks male equal, working as doctor or in 999 services. 35-43 up to 6'10. Photo essential. London/South East. Please Reply to Box No 1172.

EXTREMELY ordinary 46y working lady, likes badminton c/walks, travel and theatre, would like to meet ordinary guy with similar interests 40-55 who smokes and has SOH for friendship. S.London/ Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 1277.

FEMINE German English speaking blond lady, living in Germany, 43 years old, divorced since a long time, attractive, uncomplicated, academic, enjoys all good times in life as sun, sea, flying, classical music would like to meet a well educated gentleman with style and sophistication. He should be tall and in a good shape with dark hair, successful in his business and highly intelligent. She wants a friend for life. Photo essential. Reply to Box No 1425

FOOTLOOSE and fancy free is no fun at 50! I need a nice articulate n/s man to make me laugh and share eclectic tastes. Non-sporty, well travelled but home loving. East Berks. Box 1301

FORTY SOMETHING petite nurse, divorced, own house/car, no ties, intelligent, attractive, still fun, missing dinner for two, hugs and much more. Seeks again a serving or ex-serviceman/professional, 5'8+. 40-52 for new tomorrows. Hants. Box No 1444

FRENCH (and anti-nuclear like you!), young 30s, positive but not perfect (yet!), with too much sense of humour to list qualities usually found in this column, dreams of you, 6' tall, caring, intuitive and cultured soulmate. Extra-terrestrial, perhaps? Shall we share this wonderful journey through life and after-life? Plse reply to Box 1239.

GOOD looking extrovert woman with style, WLTM civilised man age 45-55 interested in art, books, music and conversation. London/SE area. Write with photo please to Box No 1536.

GORGEOUS Woman writer (41) seeks sane successful soft centred man for love and laughter (London area). Box No 1457.

HAMPSHIRE LADY, blonde, slim, needing conversation, cuddles & companionship invites n/s gentleman (45-60) with similar needs to write fully + photo. Reply to Box No 1341

HANTS female therapist 40s, bright, busy, optimistic, funny, sometimes crazy, seeks caring man for long term loving relationship. Hants, Sussex, Surrey. Reply to Box No 1418.

HEARING impaired? Warm attractive lady, hearing aid user, WLTM soulmate, 58+, well educated and caring. London based. Box No 1468.

HIGNFY! Gorgeous (allegedly) auburn haired doctor, 38, seeks Angus Deayton/Paul Merton, no tubs of lard! Box No 1365.

HUSSY Tall, curvy, intelligent, 32, longs for adventure and excitement with kind, tall, intelligent, interesting man, 30-40. Photo appreciated but long letter better to Box No 1534

I HAVE wonderful friends and a stimulating life, but miss the cuddles. Very attractive, intelligent, Jewish and 40's - Are you? Please Reply to Box No 1390

INTELLIGENT and attractive 36 year old with one young child and many interests - cinema, music, rugby, cricket, tennis, crosswords - seeks 35-43 year old male for fun, friendship and maybe more in NW London/ Middx. This is my first time in a personal column being a natural born cynic - so prove me wrong guys... Box No 1199.

INTELLIGENT, active, funny, warm-hearted man (47-55, over 5'9") do you live in or near London? An attractive, elegant, intellectual, continental, Jewish lady hopes to meet you. Please Reply to Box No 1166

INTERESTS include: music, theatre, badminton, swimming. Vivacious divorced mum WLTM professional man over 35 for friendship first and in time? Please Reply Box 0975.

JEWISH vivacious blonde, very attractive, romantic, tactile, no ties, seeks a fun-loving, sincere, successful, n/s, Jewish guy, 42-48 for love and laughter. Photo appreciated. Box No 1149.

LET'S take the train to Paris and have lunch. I'm young, (50+) mixed Caribbean/English, small, pretty, lovely smile, reluctant career girl now enjoying fruits of study/labour, lacking interesting, humorous man to share London lifestyle (and more) if you are reasonably attractive, under 46 & unbearded please take a chance. Reply to Box No 1350.

LIVELY attractive, slim, blonde, early 40's, a free spirit seeking kind, articulate, fun, forties man to share mutual interests. London/SE Photo much appreciated. Reply to Box 1307

LIVELY fun loving 45 year old blonde, would like to meet distinguished gent to share the good things in life. Sussex area. Please Reply to Box No 1191.

LONDON based (SW), very attractive lady, 49, wants the incentive and help from gorgeous gentleman to loose a little weight - aerobics, weights, walking, other suggestions?! Children growing up. Christmas season looming. Lover of music especially Bach, dance and Gene Pitney!! N/s. GSOH. photo and telephone number please. Box No 1400.

LONDON - Attractive blue eyed long legged blonde 22, with a young baby, looking for fun days and nights, possible romance. Plse send photo, all letters replied to. Box 1471.

LONDON based bubbly blonde, 45 years old seeks companionship of amusing and interesting man, varied interests. Please Reply to Box No 1530.

LURCHER owner who reads, travels enjoys concerts & theatre WLTM man 50-60 n/s who enjoys playing scrabble: preferably tall with brains & tolerant of countryside & woodfires. M40-M5 area. Box No 1285.

MANY friends, but WLTM someone special. Lady, 50, a real life-enhancer, seeks interesting man for culture and cuddles. Teeside/N.E. Box No 0415.

MEN -Stop writing to one lady, when one phone call can introduce you to over 300 stylish ladies from 23-75 all in the West Midlands. 99% of men join, you won't believe it until you see. Elite 0121 386 2234.

MEN Why call long distance? Close Encounters Wales, Bath, Bristol, Swindon, has an abundance of eligible women. Call free on 0800 141141.

MEN Why call long distance? Close Encounters Herts, London, Kent and Sussex, an abundance of eligible women. Call free on 0800 141 121.

MIDLAND based interior designer, down to earth, tall, slim and gorgeous, enjoys sports and having fun, WLTM tall, handsome, n/s man 45+ for happy times. Box No 1348.

'MIDLANDS Exclusive Company' Meet attractive ladies at exciting social events. Tel Exclusive Co. 01564 776200

MODESTY forbids me extolling my many attractions - but I'd love to know yours! If you are fit, fun, solvent and not too far off 45, why not give this lively lovely Bucks lady a try? Please Reply to Box No 1448

ONE gentleman for Verona sought by music loving 50ish female discovering the delights of opera and seeking a caring male soul mate for relationship. I also enjoy the theatre and countryside walking. I live in East Lancs close to the dales but visit London fairly regularly. Please Reply to Box No 1200.

PRETTY slim, 39 year old, well travelled and good humoured with preference for intelligent continental men. Box No 1438.

RESCUE me from M & S meals for one. Confident, intelligent, successful business lady based Sussex/Kent. Looking for a normal guy to share all the good/bad things in life. No wimps, losers or insolvents plse. Box No 1460.

SHAKESPEARE Addict: 40's lady, very attractive, slim, independent, central London, WLTM public school theatre going gentleman. Box 1388

SHAPELY, gregarious, widely travelled eclectic female WLTM kind, funny male 50+ for a sharing, caring future. N.E. Please Reply to Box No 1131.

SLENDER feline woman, playful, intelligent, self aware, seeks 50ish, leftish man to share love and life. Yorks, elsewhere. Please Reply to Box No 1340.

SOLVENT attractive, professional lady in her 50's WLTM sincere, honest, fun loving, solvent man 45-60, for friendship. Reply to Box 1151.

STUNNING slim 38 brunette wants genuine relationship, can't believe I'm doing this. Reply with photo to Box 1088.

YORK Divorcee prof. 44yrs, N/S loves life and countryside seeks similar male. Reply Box 1092

STYLISH charismatic lady 49, n/s, elegant blonde, London, well travelled social secretary. WLTM wealthy gentleman 45-70 having country house/ hotel?/ international lifestyle. Photo appreciated. Box 1299.

SURREY Based attractive blue eyed blonde 34, warm, open and down to earth enjoys theatre, comedy clubs, good food and wine WLTM like minded stimulating man 34-42ish (photo please) Box No 1348

TALL, fair, warm, attractive, personable woman, prof., late 40s, into arts & good things, desires similar man, 50s for poss. long term relationship. 1 hr Oxford. Please Reply to Box No 1212.

TALL slim, attractive lady, 48, seeks fun loving, romantic gent who enjoys travel, arts, good conversation. Surrey. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1406.

TENDERISE this bird for xmas festivities. Fun, fit, forties with wide interests, golf swing and smile needs basting with cuddles and love by gen. spec. sporty gent with GSOH. Beds. area. Reply to Box No 1179

THE best is still to come! Yet another attractive lady seeking someone special to share weekends and evenings, maybe more. Varied interests, ideally aged 36-48, n/s. M4 J 15-18. Please Reply to Box No 1380.

WHERE IS that genuine, caring, charismatic country gent, 55/60ish, who can bring a sparkle into a Cotswold lady's christmas? Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 1475

WIDOW, 42, WLTM a kind sincere chap 37-55 for tennis and socialising etc. I'm fun-loving, solvent, public school educated and like good food and wine, gardening, swimming and cycling. Hampshire/Surrey/ Berkshire/London. Letter and photo please to Box No 1457.

GENTLEMEN

A BEAUTIFUL lady living in London, 36-44 that wants to enjoy the good life, dresses well, is as beautiful inside as she is outside, uncomplicated and has no children. Mission Impossible? Well I can only hope. I am 6'3, slim, relaxed, affluent, chase the sun and have no problems making a commitment. Photo please. Box No 1540.

ACTIVE banker 40 enjoys sport travelling, good things in life WLTM sincere girl for long term relationship. Photo ensures reply. Box No 1157.

AFFECTIONATE good looking, accomplished, pharmacist, 5'10", slim, youthful, 40's, humorous, caring, reliable with much to offer an attractive, slim, sensuous, professional female 30's-early 40's with warmth, GSOH and joise de vivre for sharing long term relationship. Thames Valley/ Hants/W Sussex. Plse reply with recent photo Box 1427

AM 31, graduate, well-travelled, solvent, interested in literature, cinema, theatre, the Mediterranean life, relationship with God, sports, long walks out and cozy nights in. Seek trusted, attractive, companion who is, like myself, tall, slim, with GSOH. Shared interests a must, as is openess to all cultures and belief that life is more important than work. All serious replies with photos will be answered. London based preferred. Please Reply to Box No 1262

AMIABLE academic man 46, seeks artistic lady to share music, romance and loving relationship in central London. Please Reply to Box No 1138.

AN easy going London male 47 GSOH WLTM woman 30-45. Please Reply to Box No 1453

A MYSTERY? If I'm justified in setting my sights so high, why am I having to advertise here? I am frequently told I'm incredibly good-looking (which always surprises me), six two, 165 lbs, triathlon fit, spiritually and emotionally open, cerebral, a world traveller, company Director with the best job in the world. Are you 26 to 35, nothing less than stunning (honestly), ultra fit, with razor sharp mind, a wit to match and a love of stretching yourself physically and spiritually? If you are it could be worth a note and a picture, I hope so. Only then will the conundrum be solved. London/Country. Please reply to Box No 1097.

AN incurable romantic seeks like minded lady 45-55 to share the delights of London and France and in particular the opera, the theatre, the sports arena and wining and dining. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 1074

A PERFECT Partner for me would be a lady born 18-19/10/44, 28-29/9/46, 17-18-19/2/51, 27-28/1/53. It could be right! Write Box No 1402.

ARE YOU a sea-loving indep. woman 40-45, with no ties, free to go anywhere right now. ? This bright, intelligent, vigorous, handsome, happy, solvent man 47, has a plan ! Box 1528

A slim and shapely younger woman sort by affluent retired early 60 businessman, 5'11", n/s, fit, handsome, bald, romantic, private pilot. Dorset/Hants, Box 1391

A tall honest outgoing male (34), shy at first. GSOH, w/hearted, likes, golf, travel, music, photography. Many friends, but no one special. You female, 28-34 tall, GSOH, g/looking, confident happy, genuine. Decent letter please photo app. Be truthful as I will be with you ALA. E/Mid based. But travel no problem. Box No 1121.

ATHENS temp based. Tall, fit, late 30's grad., has many interests except a lady. Please Reply to Box No 1486

ATTRACTIVE and successful Surrey based entrepreneur, 44, tall, extremely fit, seeks affectionate, intelligent, very attractive slim lady to share beautiful surroundings, lovely holidays and enjoy life with a romantic and happy person, age 25-40. Please write and enclose photo & phone no. Box 1334.

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, affluent Man. Dir. Just 50. Recently home alone, loves sport and travel and all the luxuries of life. WLTM woman with similar tastes. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 1250

ATTRACTIVE masculine, professional man, 47, virile, adventurous, seeks very attractive lady for rewarding friendship. Please Reply to Box No 1344.

A 28yr old, dark haired, 5'8 male - First Advertisement! Professional, sociable, stable, divorced and a father! The time is right for new friends and possibly a very special one? Much to offer and to share with an attractive lady 20-35yrs old. Interests include music, theatre, people, art, food and wine, good times spent in and out. Tell me about you with a photo plse box 1276

BANISH Xmas Blues! Sensitive silken-voiced at ease man, tender tactile tall zesty prof. 54, rebuilding life wants upfront soulmate also seeking genuine antidote to sensual starvation, with own space in 2 home relationship nr West London. Bonus for photo! Box 9495.

CENTRAL London businessman, divorced n/s interested in travel, arts and dining seeks attractive intelligent lady age 40/50, colour/religion not important but personality/humour is. Please send photograph to box 1177

CARING CHAP 48, funny, personable, does a decent traditional lunch but would really appreciate a lady who could make lump free gravy: share comfortable lifestyle and reciprocate commitment. Enjoys concerts, films, books, dining out, relaxing strolls etc. Based J16 M4, can travel. Please Reply to Box No 1326

CASCADE........Bristol
CASCADE........Cardiff
CASCADE........Bath
CASCADE........Swansea
CASCADE........Gloucestershire
CASCADE........Taunton
CASCADE........Pembrokeshire
CASCADE........Worcestershire
civilised Social Groups for the unattached aged 30'ish to 50'ish contact Howard or Jan 01495 78 53 09 noon to 7pm any day. Fax 01495 759046.

CHARMING generous, successful businessman, early 50s, 6ft tall, slightly over weight (but working on it), enjoys socialising, horse racing (owner), winter and sun sports, lives M4 corridor, seeks attractive, slim, vivacious, 30-45 year old lady who enjoys countryside, for fun and romance. Photo guarantees reply. Box No 1394.

CHESHIRE rich, slim, attractive, 32 year old, enjoys good food, wine, dancing & trouble, seeks, good looking, fun, honest, soul mate to travel the world. Photo essential. Box No 1382.

CHRISTMAS / Winter in SW France? fit, free, well-educated, well-travelled, well worn (but worn well) woman wanted. Londoner (SW) would like to hear details of your cultural tastes and sporting activities. Reply to Box No 1497

CINDERELLA does this fit? Nice looking, good figure, likes to laugh, travel to the sun, no children, no hang ups, 38-45, living in London, looking for excitement. I am tall, athletic, wealthy, good fun, easy going, stylish, hate winters and have a totally open mind. Photo please. Please reply to Box 1538.

COMPASSIONATE successful, professional man, 5'9, late forties who enjoys the theatre, art, restaurants, golf, walking, travel, is working too hard and needs a cultured, attractive lady late 30s or 40s for friendship, romance and a balanced interesting life. London, Home Counties. Letter and recent photo please. Please Reply Box 1409.

COUNTRY Doctor - S.E. Very early 40s. Tall, slim, fit, n/s. Enjoys good food/wine, music, travel, sport. Seeks attractive like-minded female (30-40). Children optional. Please reply with photo to Box No 1489.

DARK 5'9, easy going, very young 42, looking for brains, serious sense of humour and looks. Reply to Box No 1399.

EAST Midlands. Very successful businessman, fit, well-travelled extrovert has everything except someone special. Is looking for an exceptionally attractive woman 36-42, pref. tall, slim, successful, educated, GSOH, who values integrity and wants to enjoy life. Recent photo (returned), guarantees reply. Box No 1356.

EDINBURGH area: cultured businessman in early 40s wishes to meet attractive professional lady in early 30s for long term relationship. Lady should have a taste for the finer things in life but also have a strong sense of traditional family/home values. Photo and tel no please. Please Reply to Box No 0899.

FORMER seafarer and businessman, successfully early retd. mid 50s, well able to fend for himself but looking for crew for a ship shape island berth with good food and quality grog in SE. Ladies who are n/s, trim and free to roam might like to check the ships master before signing on. Box No 1522.

GRAD 27, M, solvent, single, varied interests, seeks intelligent, funny, spontaneous female companion to share laughter, good times and possible romance in Glocs. area. Think we could meet? Reply Box 1541

HANDSOME Widower. Solvent businessman. As you may gather no culture-vulture but I am interested in many things & have an open mind to all new ideas which any lady may wish to bring to a relationship. Pooling experiences strikes me as a quick way to learn to live again. Pushing 60yrs I need a few short cuts. So I seek an attractive lady who empathises with most of the foregoing. Photo please. Reply Box No 1137

HAPPY unpretentious, good looking, Essex businessman, 40, who loves life, walking, talking and travelling, WLTM a beautiful slim woman, who is happy and wants a partnership. Photo please. Please Reply Box 1266.

I AM not into sailing, country walks, or mountain climbing. I prefer lounge bars, card games, vivaldi and lazy exotic holidays. I believe that the two most attractive physical characteristics in a woman are expressive eyes and a trim sexy figure. If you are also aged about 40, not awfully busy, with no dependents, living within M25, I'd like to hear from you, for fun and friendship without pressure. I am an ex-banker, now leading a leisurely cosmopolitan lifestyle. I am in my early fifties. cultured, refined, witty, warm, Sagittarian, average height and build, greying/brown hair. Please Reply to Box No 1339

SHY slim single gentleman 38 seeks large lady 28-55 for fun and romance. Norfolk/E. Anglia. Box No 1507.

I AM 40 tall, privately educated, presentable, friendly, live in London and South Coast and have a successful business life. If you are from a similar background, age immaterial but preferably solvent and need occasional companionship please reply to Box No 1477.

I LIVE and work in the beautiful windswept West Country I am a 36yrs old very handsome (for you to determine) tall, Company Chief Executive who is successful, single, spirited yet very private. I seek a proud, pretty, perceptive slim young lady to have dinner with me. Who are you, where do you wish to meet and why? Reply Box No 1264

INTELLIGENT, caring, tall, solvent, 47 year old male. Likes music, reading, walking, theatre. Sense of humour important. Located in North Essex. Looking for someone to share a romantic future with. Please write to Box No 1469.

JAPANESE 25, male postgraduate, warm, 5'6, loves cooking, arts and travelling. Seeks 20-35 female for friendship/romance. Photo please, answer assured. E Scotland. Reply Box No 1300

KENT MAN 49, 6ft 2" works London, own business, loves champagne, cooking good food (you need never cook again!) theatre, travel, music, walking the dogs, log fires and country life. Seeks slim, petite lady, under 45, must have VGSOH for honest, caring relationship with lots of TLC and fun. Please Reply with phone no. Box 1424

LADIES -Stop writing to one man, when one phone call can introduce you to over 300 stylish men from 23-75 all in the West Midlands. 99% of ladies join, you won't believe it until you see. Elite 0121 386 2234.

LADIES Why call long distance? Close Encounters Wales, Bath, Bristol, Swindon, has an abundance of eligible men. Call free on 0800 141141.

LADIES Why call long distance? Close Encounters Herts, London, Kent and Sussex, an abundance of eligible men. Call free on 0800 141 121.

LAWYER in love? Not right now! You change that? Me 28, handsome and definitely romantic. Warm and cultured loving too! You write we meet. 24-32. Photo and Phone No. North/ Midlands. Box No 1222.

LONDON, 48 single seeks younger uninhibited lady with GSOH. Good figure & possibly dominant for mutually rewarding long term relationship. Colour unimportant. Please reply with photo to Box No 1226.

MAD carefree but successful 34 year old male, 6ft, sporty with no ties, considered handsome with a roguish smile, seeks fun loving female with no ties and plenty of spirit. I am Cheshire based but area and age not prime consideration. Photo appreciated. Box No 1489.

MY special lady can be any age, but will, like me, have no dependents, an interest in things spiritual and be at ease in any company, but identify with none. She will be unshockable (she's been there, done that), prefer a good book to crowds and have security to equal mine (I don't have to work to live well). She will discover a thoughtful, loving, strong and compliant 55 yo 6ft man who, the above not withstanding, has much laughter within. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 1401.

N.E. 6' Rangy, charming, youthful, energetic, articulate professional 38, who usually reads the Guardian, and whose friends threaten (but fail) to fix him up seeks good-looking, slim, intelligent, irreverent woman 38 or less for something passionate, amusing and serious. Photo and fountain-penned letter appreciated. Box 1532.

N.W./MIDLANDS early 40s, tall, good looking and fit. Divorced, highly successful but misses that special relationship. Seeks attractive, classy, feminine partner age 30-40 with that special something. Photo absolutely essential please. Reply to Box No 1243.

NORTH WEST managing director, 38, very attractive, enjoys fast cars, slow food, good wine, skiing, countryside, would like to meet very attractive lady with style 25-45 you will be used to travelling first class and enjoy 5 star hospitality, be at ease in the city or countryside, for long term relationship/ marriage. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 1247.

OPTIMISTIC, easy going, lively, intelligent & thinking grad. 35, wide interests. Urban, but country loving, avid diver, keen traveller, wide interests. Seeks positive, attractive, relaxed n/s girl, like outlook to explore life. Please Reply to Box No 1529.

PASSIONATE, widower, 56, 5'10, medium build, fit, great hair, smart appearance, successful freelance designer, living SE London, NW Kent. Seeking SE based elegant, quick, intelligent, challenging, well educated lady, 39-49 for long term relationship/ marriage. Please Reply Box 1323.

POLISH background, single gentleman, 39, enjoys travelling, dancing, walks, cinema, wishes to meet a sincere lady with similar interests. Box No 1421.

PROFESSIONAL, good-looking, successful, humorous, 5ft 10in, male, 35. Interested in travel, music, food, wine and an enthusiastic horse rider. Looking for attractive, younger, n/s female. Photo appreciated. Box 1119.

S. MIDLANDS based santa with many professional and personal qualities wishes to meet a 40 something, size 10-12 Christmas Cracker who is filled with fun, friendship and a spirit of adventure. Reply Box No 1311

SOMETHING Wonderful is happening to you NOW! I am late 40's, Co. Director, 6' and handsome enough. M11 but mobile. Our shared passions are good music and good food (golf and bridge perhaps) Our shared values are kindness, generosity of spirit and open mindedness. A letter (a window on your soul) and photo ensures reply. Don't let the moment pass. WRITE NOW. Reply to Box No 1479

SPORTY attractive, tall, mid-thirties doctor, likes travel, music, countryside and city night life. Seeks romantic, attractive lady 28-35. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1499

STILL learning! Tall slim quite attractive rebel 47 seeks a sumptuous top-heavy n/s lady. Age unimportant. E.Counties/N.Ldn. Please Reply to Box No 1091.

SURREY Young 43, dark hair, blue eyes, 11st, honest, loyal, likes good food, wine, company, GSOH, lots TLC. Seeks attractive girl to share lifes rollercoaster. Reply Box 1304

TALL blond male, good looking, easy going 45, successful city career, live Belgravia, enormous capacity to enjoy a full life. Seeks happy attractive young woman to enjoy life with. Letter and photo please to Box No 1059.

TALL strong, handsome, fit, successful man, 38, who is extrovert, fun-loving, warm, kind, caring, romantic and sincere. Seeks a very attractive, glamourous, blonde lady, 30-45, who is feminine, bright, bubbly, romantic, witty, loves wearing stockings and is slim, but very curvaceous. If you exist, I would love to meet you! Photo much appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 1171

UNCONVENTIONAL Lawyer 38, down to earth, fit, West London based, allegedly attractive, loves sailing and the sea, cross - examination and the law and living every minute of life seeks unique, handsome, non-pretentious, unselfish woman 25+ whose soul is drawn from the salt of the earth for honest, loving, caring, sharing, hot, imaginative relationship. Photo and letter please. Box No 1488

VERY good-looking prof man, 34, tall, slim, healthy, dark hair (not bald) green eyes, smart appearance. Single, but very eligible. Friendly, honest, affectionate and a true romantic at heart. Who wishes to meet a very special lady, who also believes in happy endings. London, Surrey, anywhere I may find her. Reply Box 1115

WANTED a special lady. Successful, professional, english businessman, well educated, slim, mid 50s, n/s, considered to be very attractive, intelligent, sincere, charming, wealthy, reliable, generous with a VGSOH and personality, with many varied interests, including theatre, overseas travel, sport, good food, countryside and relaxed, affectionate homelife. Now single and unattached would love to meet a very attractive, slim, intelligent, petite, elegant lady who is fun-loving, feminine, under 45 and ideally London based or nearby, under 5'4, unattached, who enjoys being spoilt and would like to share all the better things in life through an honest, caring, permanent relationship. All letters with recent photo & tel no answered, but genuine replies only pls. Box 1161.

WEST Country gentleman (successful) with affluent lifestyle who loves to over indulge requires urgently slim, n/s lady (30-40) to control his appetite permanently, but not too much as naughty is nice. NB this is a one off offer so please reply with fullest details and photograph now! Box No 1433.

WEST Yorkshire. Professional late 30s. Fairly fit, plays tennis, likes skiing, music, theatre. Looking for female 20s or 30s for company and fun. Photo appreciated. Box No 1292.

YOUNG 27 year old Swiss/ German, attractive, intelligent and successful, interested in many respects, would like to meet equivalent lady 30-48 during his stays in London. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 1182

34, straight-acting, handsome, caring, professional seeks similar sincere guy for correspondence, friendship, relationship. Photo & letter plse to Box 1361.

INDIAN merchant banker, 48, good lifestyle, looking to share life with warm, sporty attractive lady with GSOH. Please Reply to Box No 0852.

INTERESTING well to do, presentable late 50s, loves travelling, tennis, golf, dining out, country weekends. WLTM attractive sporty lady 40-50ish with GSOH, nationality immaterial, based London. Please Reply to Box No 0928.

LANCS/MCHSTR Unpretentious, n/s, caring solicitor, 43, seeks younger prof lady for dining in/out, strolls, relaxing chat and the other simple things of life. Reply to Box No 0903

INTERESTING, sincere, friendly, outgoing, 45yr old widower, with much to offer. WLTM an accomplished younger female who enjoys outside and fireside activities, socialising and sharing the finer things in life. I would be appreciative of a lady who was vivacious, fun to be with and comfortable in either wellies or ballgown. I am a Canada based professional, 5'9", fit, healthy, well educated with eclectic views and tastes, an enquiring mind and lively SOH. My interests include boating/ sailing, hill-walking, the countryside/NT, travel, antiques, wine, music, books, photography, cinema and aviation. If you have an attractive, well-educated mind, a lively interest in the world and possess a pleasing, slim, curvaceous figure then please write with photo to Box No 0766

LAWYER (38) in search of his ideal brief, a tall, slim, attractive lady to share notes over dinner, likes: cinema, theatre, eating out, weekends away and travel. London based. Please Reply to Box No 0937.

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ME 6'2 alleged attractive, outgoing, GSOH. You buxom, shapely, London, South East, 30-40 years. Please write. Photo essential. Box No 0736

MEN are from Mars, Women from Venus. Martian, 39, 6'4, athletic, handsome, affluent, successful, who works/plays hard. Seeks Venusian to share life/lifestyle, 27-35, n/s, active, gorgeous to look at/ talk to/ be with, and career you care about. If replying is alien but you never seem to meet the right Martian, then beam me up! NANU NANU!! Photo please. N/West. Please Reply to Box No 0919

MID 40s professional who is personable and financially comfortable seeks a younger, n/s lady to share beach walks, sunday lunches and fireside. Ideally you are attractive, amusing and prefer good music to TV. Photograph appreciated. Scotland, East Coast. Please Reply to Box No 1046.

N.W. Lancs. man, youthful 40, 5'10"+ slim & fit. Seeks caring sensual lady to share dining in & out, travel, adventure and lasting relationship. Please Reply to Box No 0980.

NORTH WEST based male. Excellent appearance a slim-fit, 52, no bald patch or paunch, has everything but the lady. Nice home, absolute solvency, a great job. Seeks slim-petite, quiet natured permanent partner-eventual wife. Photo please which I promise to return. Please Reply to Box No 0948.

ORIENTAL lady of beauty sought by tall, attractive, fun, kind, London based professional gent. Must have GSOH, pref 28-38 years. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 1063.

OXBRIDGE man, widowed, highly eligible, seeks educated girl 30s, n/s, rather shy, who would not normally reply. Old enough to be your father but full of go. Country near London. Travel, theatre, helping others. Nobody need know. Please Reply to Box No 0850.

PERCEPTIVE educated, travelled, Scotsman (53), divorced years, London welfare field, needs attractive, caring lady (possibly single parent) American interests appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 0869.

POCAHONTAS where are you? T.D & H prof Chieftan 40s seeks gorgeous squaw who is possibly: independent, professional feisty & mischievous. For details send smoke signals and phone no to Box 0973.

PROF. male, 31, single, grad., (continent origin) seeks similar warm attract. cosmo female, any nation, for r/ship marriage. W.Yorks. Photo nice. Please Reply to Box No 0864.

PROFESSIONAL Gent, tall slim fifties, public school, interests include travel, music, outdoor sports, seeks lady similar. Please Reply to Box No 0772

PUBLIC School gentleman, demonstrative and deeply caring needs his own sensitive and caring lady, same background to devote themselves to each other. I am 60s and young, would like you to be 45-55, SOH. I like music, conversation, the country, antiques, people, riding, dancing and sports, am right wing and Francophile, n/s. Please send your photograph. Box No 0816.

ROMANTIC. Warm-hearted foreign born American CEO looking for a very beautiful lady of British/European descent for lifelong companionship and marriage. You should be attractive, romantic, kind-hearted, sincere, passionate, of excellent character and preferably 32-38 years. Come, let's share the road together and discover the beauty of sharing, loving and building together. I am 46, 5'10", medium complexioned, sincere, trustworthy, responsible, very cosmopolitan and travel to UK often. Please write immediately with photograph (returnable) to Box 3704, South Bend, IN 46619-0704, U.S.A.

SINCERE prof. man, 59, WLTM lady interested in sailing, walking, theatre, travel. Herts/Beds. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 0738.

SPORTSMAN turned academic (PhD), blonde, 5'10, 32, am told I'm going to waste. Are you attractive, looking for fun and laughs and some quiet times too? London. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 0747.

SPORTY attractive man with GSOH (28) seeks sporty attractive woman with GSOH to do everything sporty, attractive people do. Box No 1012.

SUCCESSFUL Entrepreneur. Slim, single, 5'10". University educated, intellectual type man, 43. WLTM a tall, intelligent, distinctive looking woman, for a serious relationship. North of England preferred, but can travel. Please reply Box 0783.

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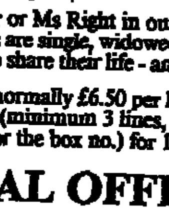
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We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected

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MEET SOMEONE THROUGH
THE TIMES

Source: NRS Jan-June 94

صكذا من الاصل

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

SINCE 1886, each of the 13 World Champions has pushed forward the boundaries of chess knowledge, science and art, and has reflected the intellectual ethos of his day. Steinitz, the first, was a contemporary of Darwin and Marx, and like them he tried to impose a rigid theory. Lasker, the second, was active in the early 20th century, at a time of world conflict. He was a philosopher who, appropriately, developed an entire intellectual programme based on the struggle.

One of the best ways to improve your chess is to adopt a hero, then follow and study that player's games closely. What better heroes to adopt than the World Champions themselves?

Garry Kasparov has often stated that Alexander Alekhine, who held sway from 1927 until 1946, is his chess hero. The influence is clear. Both love combinations and the attack, though in 1927, when Alekhine had to face the virtually invincible Capablanca for the world championship, he curbed his natural predilections to become a super-strategist. Kasparov had to learn the same lesson when struggling against Karpov six decades later.

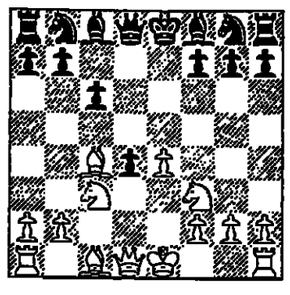
This game shows Alekhine's shock tactics, which bowled over so many unsuspecting opponents. It also reveals his main weakness, an overweening impatience which sometimes seduced him into unsound adventures. My notes are based on those of Alekhine himself who, with characteristic honesty, pointed out that on move 6 Black could virtually have refuted White's conception.

White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Max Euwe
Haarlem 1937
Queen's Gambit Slav Defence

1	d4	d5	2	c4	c6
3	Nc3	dxc4	4	e4	e5
5	Bxc4				

This sacrificial combination is certainly very tempting and, especially over the board, extremely difficult to refute.

5 . . . exd4 6 Nf3. Presenting Black with a difficult practical problem.



6 . . . b5. The main variation Alekhine had in mind was 6 . . . dxc3 7 Bxf7+ Ke7 8 Qb3 Nf6 9 e5 Ne4 10 0-0. But instead of 8 . . . Nf6 Black should play 8 . . . cxb2 9 Bxb2 Qb6 10 Bxg8 Rxg8 11 Qxg8 Qb4+ 12 Nd2 Qxb2 after which his middlegame chances, in spite of the approximate equality of forces, are higher than White's remaining possibilities of a direct attack.

7 Nxb5. Dr Euwe admitted simply overlooking this move. The knight obviously cannot be taken because of 8 Bd5 winning material.

7 . . . Ba6 8 Qb3. An important move with three objectives: to protect the king's bishop, to prevent a black check at b4 and to strengthen the pressure against f7.

8	. . .	Qe7	9	0-0	Bxb5
10	Bxb5	Nf6	11	Bc4	Nbd7
12	Nxd4	Rb8	13	Qc2	Qc5

Hereafter, White has to avoid only a few traps in order to win.

14	Nf5	Ne5	15	Bf4	Nh5
16	Bxf7+				

A startling but ultimately profitable continuation, which nets White a material advantage.

16	. . .	Kxf7	17	Qxc5	Bxc5
18	Bxe5	Rb5	19	Bd6	Bb6
20	b4				

And now the rook is in danger. Black cannot avoid material loss.

20	. . .	Rd8	21	Rad1	c5
22	bxc5	Bxc5	23	Rd5	

Black resigns.

WINNING MOVE

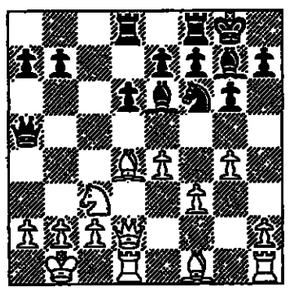
By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Anand - Kasparov, *Intel World Championship, Game 15 1995*. It demonstrates a common tactical trap which can arise from numerous different openings. How can White win a pawn?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Rxe2+

Last week's winners: R Hulley, Croydon, Surrey; D Timbrell, Chingford, Essex; G H Tebble, Horstead, Norfolk.



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption 81, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 8.



Manager (by way of introducing rural slant). "LET ME SEE, HAVE YOU TWO CLASHED AT EACH OTHER BEFORE?"



"Very nice, but I'll have a box of tissues instead, please."

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mr L. Day of Lydd-on-Sea, Kent

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CAPARISON
a. A logical comparison
b. Horse clothes
c. A spice like a clove

REBOANT
a. A soldier ant
b. Flowing backwards
c. Reverberating

ASPIRATOR
a. An ambitious nouveau
b. A Greek accent
c. A pus drawer

MAMMIFEROUS
a. Bearing fircones
b. A volcanic stratum
c. Having breasts.

Answers on page 20

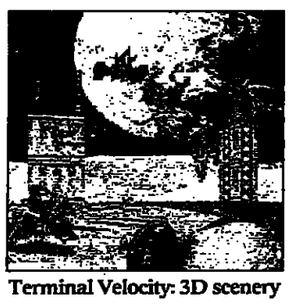
COMPUTER GAMES

IT IS not only soldiers with the British Army who can play military manoeuvres in the beautiful surroundings of the Brecon Beacons in Wales. With US Gold's **Terminal Velocity** you, too, can wreak havoc in stunning settings with an uncanny resemblance to the breathtaking Brecons.

This airborne shoot-'em-up sees you climbing, swooping and thrusting your way in a fighter jet through a mountainous 3D environment, destroying all in your path. Targets range from towering concrete constructions to trickier moving bull's-eyes, enemy jets, tanks and amphibious craft.

If you can navigate your way into the awkward openings, there is also a network of underground tunnels to find. Hitting the right spots above or below ground offers rewards to keep you alive, such as power-packs, deadlier weapons and "afterburn" jets. The afterburn boosters allow you to flee rapidly, albeit nauseously, any danger zone.

Straightforward but satisfying, with no need to master complex flight-sim technicalities beforehand, **Terminal Velocity** is the perfect, mindless blast-up to relieve the tensions of a gruelling day. It is harmless enough, yet hits the spot perfectly.



Terminal Velocity: 3D scenery

The game seems like a progression of the engaging two-dimensional, vertically scrolling shoot-em-up, **Raptor**. Adding further to speculation that the two titles might be related, a Shareware version of **Raptor** is included on the CD-Rom.

There are also similarities between **Terminal Velocity** and Gremlin Interactive's **Slipstream 5000**. This airborne racing game is also set in 3D milieux — including courses in London, the Grand Canyon, the Black Forest and Tokyo — but, unlike **Terminal Velocity**, it handles haphazardly.

This is the last call for Cyberspace Eighteen, which closes at midnight on Tuesday. The main prize is a £200 portable electronic Philips "Routefinder" which, through on-screen instructions, guides you economically around Britain.

In addition to the Routefinder, our winner and five runners-up will receive **Micro Machines '96** for the Sega Mega Drive. This is Codemasters' latest incarnation of its pedigree racing game.

To enter, nominate a well-known person whom you believe to be in urgent need of a Routefinder, and explain your reasons. Cyberspace Eighteen is open to all ages, and you can enter as many times as you like. Send your entries, which must be legible and include your name, age, address and telephone number, to: Cyberspace Eighteen, Computer Games, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You can also fax entries on 0171-729 6791. The judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

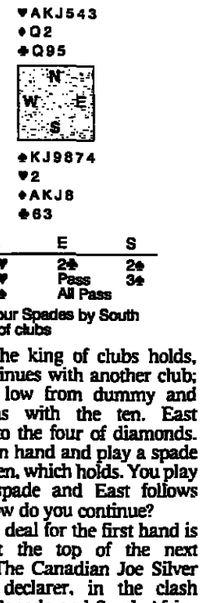
TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

AS YOU probably know, when the opponents have five trumps between them, a 3-2 break is more likely than a 4-1 break. For most practical purposes that knowledge is sufficient, although occasionally the fact that the 3-2 break is 68 per cent and the 4-1 break 28 per cent may have a bearing on the play of the hand. So how do you handle the trumps on these two hands?

Dealer North — East-West Vul — IMP's



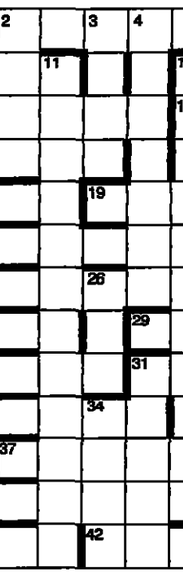
W	N	E	S
—	Pass	2♥(1)	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Contract: Four Spades by South
Lead: jack of hearts
(1) Weak Two (six-card suit)

East plays the queen on the first heart and you duck. East continues with the king of hearts, and you win with West following. All follow to the king of spades, and West plays small on the second spade. Do you play the ten or the ace?

This is the second hand:

Dealer North — East-West Vul — IMP's



W	N	E	S
—	1♥	2♠	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Contract: Four Spades by South
Lead: King of clubs

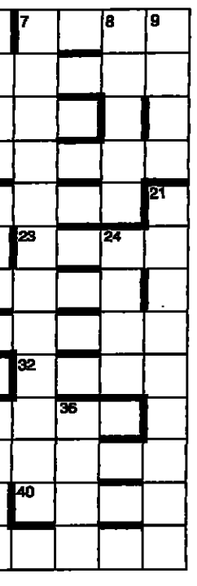
When the king of clubs holds, West continues with another club; you play low from dummy and East wins with the ten. East switches to the four of diamonds. You win in hand and play a spade to the queen, which holds. You play another spade and East follows small. How do you continue?

The full deal for the first hand is shown at the top of the next column. The Canadian Joe Silver was the declarer, in the clash between Canada and South Africa in the round-robin phase of the Bermuda Bowl a month ago. Both teams qualified for the second phase, and Canada went on to the final, where they lost to USA II.

The first good thing Silver did was to duck the opening heart. He felt that East would have opened Three Hearts with a seven-card suit, and he wanted to see what East (Henry Mansell) would do if left on lead.

When East continued hearts Silver took the view he could not have a singleton in either minor — otherwise he would have shifted to that suit. So with six hearts and length in both minors the chance of East holding a singleton spade was increased. Whether it increases by enough to make it correct to finesse in spades I don't know, but Silver was sufficiently convinced to put in the ten of spades on the second round. Alan Truscott described the play in the bulletin as 'a golden thought by Silver'. At every other table where the contract was Four Spades it went off.

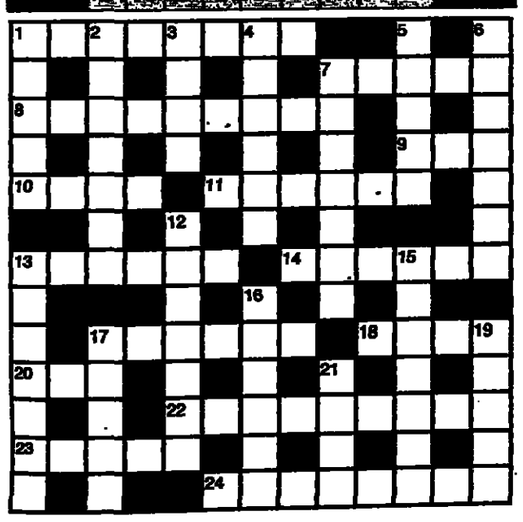
The second hand was played in the round-robin match between USA I and France. France got to the semi-final, where they were beaten by the other American team. Jimmy Cayne was the declarer, with Chemla West and Perron East. This was the full deal:



When East played low on the second spade, Cayne finessed the seven. When that held he was home. But why did Cayne play East for four spades to the ace-ten? The key was the fact that Perron did not lead a third club. Perron knew that Cayne would discover the trump position when Chemla was unable to overruff — so he didn't lead a club. But Cayne could also see that that must have been the reason for Perron's failure to lead a third club. That placed the trumps with East.

East should have played a club anyway. A good declarer is always going to draw the correct inference if he fails to do so. If West's singleton spade is the nine, playing a third club will promote a trump trick. But if East exits with a diamond, West's nine of spades will fall under the queen and the declarer may well finesse the eight on the second round.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 618

ACROSS
1 Glimpse, view (of quarry) (8)
7 Stage work (5)
8 Dungeon one is dropped in (9)
9 Position; fib (3)
10 Realise; bit of tree (4)
11 Walt —, animator (6)
13 Throat (6)
14 Support, esp. for body weight (6)
17 Bruno —, conductor (6)
18 Cut; bargain (4)
20 Standard; equality (3)
22 Left-winger (9)
23 Tsar's edict (5)
24 (Bridge) player of contract (8)

DOWN
1 Sir *17ac* —, novelist (5)
2 An archangel; *17ac* —, old Archers character (7)
3 Endpiece; follow (4)
4 Stupid person (6)
5 Another stupid person (5)
6 Sir *17ac* —, explorer (7)
7 House of head of cathedral (7)
12 One living in solitude (7)
13 *17ac* —, 20C architect (7)
15 More tasty; Morocco port (7)
16 Pull from danger (6)
17 Inflict, do (damage, harm) (5)
19 Father (arch.); *17ac* —, 19C essayist (5)
21 Snout's *loam and rough-cast* role (*MND*) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 617

ACROSS: 1 Miscast 5 Cubic 8 Baize 9 Whatnot 10 Dishevelment 12 Cubism 14 Octavo 17 Identifiable 21 Unveils 22 Plumb 23 Allah 24 Slender

DOWN: 1 Moby-Dick 2 Swiss 3 Ageless 4 Townee 5 Charm 6 Bonanza 7 Cats 11 November 13 Bedevil 15 Cripple 16 Misses 18 Neigh 19 Bound 20 Cuba

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3330: Key Numbers by Le Gallois

CLUES are normal but nearly half the lights (24) are to be coded before entry on a numerical basis (A=1,27 etc) initiated by a simple trigger.

Chambers (1993) doesn't include the answer to 24d (an obsolete form of a common word, to be found in the OED) or 42a (in *Collins*), but is otherwise recommended.

ACROSS
1 Music producer old misery largely confronting a dog (9)
7 Fiddle with lines to hoodwink (4)
10 Forward publicity for Rana's relative (4)
12 Almost complete and explosive charge of thunder (7)
13 Cycle race is cut short by this oak (6)
14 All chromosomes play in old bud (5)
15 It's indecent to live endlessly in retirement (4)
16 Shoot judge pursuing favourite shock treatment (6)
17 Accented (loosely) name in diary (4)
19 Cleric in great dispute (4)
20 Flat in the country oddly in full use (4)
22 Student to take in police as figured (8)
23 Writer losing head about commercial design (4)
25 Stands with divisions but runs to take cover (11)
28 Fish possessing long bones (4)
29 Ailing feet must lead to strong smells (8)
30 Long-distance call from Oxford St to Shaftesbury Ave? (4)
31 Excellent team retrieved bloomer (4)
32 Texture is the best in the North (4)
33 Withdraw from French canal (6)
35 Corporation monster changes at the end (4)
37 Hunter valley's ruined by square corks (5)
38 Hot sauce served to starters causes trouble (6)
39 Hearty group after end of game (7)
40 Pastor in petition for local bog (4)
41 *Policeman is at the heart of* troubles (4)
42 One going up and down Rutland with Open University broadcast (9)

DOWN
1 Crock to take into main dealer (9)
2 Air passage in a restricted area (4)
3 Craving kicked in a manner of speaking (4)
4 Counter chatter, "butter's salt" (7)
5 Islam's agitation for Indian workers (5)
6 Stop king supporting Homer (4)
7 Music maker's arrangement for Peking cellos (12)
8 Standard Scott novel without Greenheart for example (5)
9 Take off fast finally after runner (4)
11 Girls come to South Africa in expectation of simple form of life (12)
12 Outdated club pursues deceptive harmony (11)
18 Sea monster's beat off Mediterranean island (4)
20 Coat only half a flap (3)
21 A couple of girls reportedly fabricating material (9)
24 Follow up on English welfare which is outdated (4)
26 Pursue faint heart (3)
27 Designs to offend historic village (7)
30 Friends popping up to take shift (5)
31 Nut in Nice rising to one who did hot turn (5)
33 A little lark, say, ascending (4)
34 Scots delivered the French town (4)
35 Showing surprise about Henry's fat? (4)
36 Principle of primogeniture in regular division of tribe (4)

LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3330

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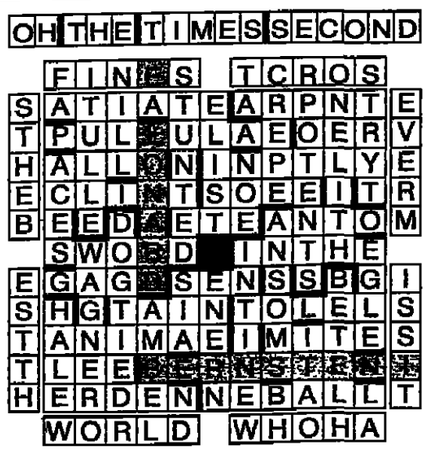
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No. 3330, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, November 16

The winner will receive: **The Cambridge Encyclopedia**, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 36,000 entries; **The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language**, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**.



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Solution and notes to No. 3327 "Conversation Piece" by Hysterix



CONVERSATION PIECE — "*Oh, THE TIMES,*" he says in a mocking English accent. "Second-finest crossword in the world." "Who has the best?"

"*THE LISTENER,*" Bernstein replies. "Never miss it."

Extract from "*The day I met ... Leonard Bernstein*" by Richard Morrison, Arts Editor. Published in *The Times*, *December 28 1994*

The winner is A.R. King of Standlake, Witney, Oxfordshire.

The runners-up are A.K. Jobbings of Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire and D. Rainford of Leeds.



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